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Is moving to Shaving Commercial World, where the women are always burden and the towels crop.



'In his mid-70s, my father was pursued by wife No. 3 while wife No. 2 lay dying of cancer'

KING OF THE HILL

IN THIS TIME OF our so-called hard working, dedicated and selfless MPs like your winner of the second annual Parliamentarian of the Year award ("Bill Blaikie is Canada's best MP," *National Post*, Dec. 1), but do we need so many aches? We have 364 and counting, with Stephen Harper threatening to add another 22. What's wrong with the country to mine itself? The country has health care issues, infrastructure problems, a growing population of poor people and underemployed new immigrants. And these never seem to be enough money to address these problems? I would rather see Harper cut the number of MPs by half. With modern transportation, email and text messaging, 114 of them could represent us and save as much as \$25 million annually—money that can be more productively used on some of the above mentioned problems.

Brian Gates, Toronto

IN THIS AGE of political cynicism, it is important to occasionally focus on the contributions of individual who are in public office for the right reasons. It is ironic that your Parliamentarian of the Year issue was published in the same week that our country's very best MP, John Godfrey, announced his retirement. Godfrey is one of those rare politicians who never compromised moral principles for personal gain. That he was consistently ranked 10th from all sides of the Conservative behind reason building projects relating to the environment, early childhood development, and the eradication of poverty in his own mind to be talents, excellent and beautiful. And, as a former educator and long-time advocate for learning opportunities, Godfrey captured a love of politics in many young people. In his new role as head master for the Toronto French School, he will undoubtedly still countless more with values of social justice and civic engagement.

Mattias Zybkowski, Ottawa

GRATIFYING ARTICLE and I am sure the members' choices are deserving. However, maybe you should add a "buffoon of the year" category. Thus our illustrious members of Parliament would realize how juvenile, ludicrous and laughable they appear during question period and other times when they are trying to convey how clever and witty they are. They might even be shamed into maturity.

Doug Whitland, Stratford, Ont.

A WEEK'S WORTH

ON 7 DECEMBER you report on Barry Bonds being indicted on charges that he lied to a grand jury about his use of steroids ("Morning on," *Good News*, Dec. 1). Thus you say, "All that's needed is for Lance Armstrong to come clean and we can finally close the books on 2004." Lance Armstrong was clean. He never hid a drug test and he was the most tested athlete in the world during his reign as seven-time Tour de France champion. Why can't the media believe that?



ABOUT YOUR? (Re)vision on lead beds to "Wilder boys," *Bad News*, Nov. 26), I might be considered a grumpy old woman, but I'm always shocked when I visit the role with small children and am confronted in the emergency and even outstayed with multi-coloured plastic junk strewn all over. I was born in a well-to-do family. Every Christmas I was given a few books, a bag of dried fruits and nuts, and a naked baby doll (no that, together with my mother, I could sew clothes for her and learn to use a needle and thread). I considered myself very fortunate. Do today's parents think they can replace quality time and love with a bunch of junk?

Mary Majka, Harvey, Alberta County, N.S.

THE RCMP RESPONSE

THE RCMP's public airing of some of the problems that members throughout the RCMP have been facing for the past few years

("What's really killing the Mounties," *National Post*, Nov. 26). For clarification, the Mounted Police members' legal fund is a not-for-profit private corporation set up in 1997 by the majority of staff relations or representatives to generally fund actions to bring resolution of issues between regular and civilian members of the RCMP who belong to the legal fund and the government of Canada, and to fund actions taken locally or nationally with respect to matters that affect the dignity or welfare of a member or members of the legal fund who are not funded under these programs available within the RCMP or the government of Canada. We are concerned personally with members' pay, benefits and rights. The legal fund is not a part of, or under control of, the RCMP as an organization. The duties of the division representatives within the RCMP, as elected representatives of their membership, are entirely separate from their positions as directors of the legal fund. Participation in the legal fund by them, and all other members, is purely voluntary. Currently 14,961 regular and civilian members of the RCMP contribute.

Ray Hall, Chairperson, Mounted Police Members' Legal Fund Executive Committee, Orleans, Ont.

AM, SENIOR LOVE

THE ARTICLE about the so-called "conservative bridge" and their aggressive pursuit of senior males is so astounding because it is so true ("The senior men alive," *Society*, Dec. 1). In his mid-70s, my father was pursued by wife No. 3 while his second wife was in hospital dying of cancer. When this woman turned up at my late supervisor's funeral, ostensibly to pay her respects, my wife and I discovered that she was a real estate agent as well as a fertility/sexologist divorcee. She wanted my father and the house. She got 'em both. My father, once an intelligent thinker if not a moral example, now ran behind this woman in quiet gratitude for having a wife about the age of his eldest daughter—much to the exclusion of being a father and grandfather. It's ridiculous. I wish dear old dad's young girl bride's father were still alive. I would date him in revenge.

Brian W. Gillingham, Mount Stewart, P.E.I.





THE POWER OF LIGHT

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MATT DAMON may be cute, but he has nothing on Scott Perdue, a loyal reader writer.

SKIP SEXY, PICK FUNNY

I NEED TO KNOW: whose to vote for Scott Perdue as the "Funniest Man Alive?" ("What Matt will do in his first 100 Days in office," Comment, Dec. 1) I've been mulling to do this for quite awhile now, but this latest column rousing about his "Sensibility" Mark Damon has pushed me to action! I also know that I have Scott to blame as I will now be laughing—or snickering—at quite inappropriate or unusual times, especially when checking out protesters just passing magazine stands, leaving me quite vulnerable to judgmental people not quite as enlightened as myself, but that's really nothing new anyway! News let Scott go: Canada must protect itself against the lions down and this man is a real natural orator. *Karen Derdik, Tillinghast, Ont.*

THANKS FOR the Perdue features and cheers for the penetrating journalism in *Maclean's*. *Berlene Kingdon, Foxfield, Alta.*

R.I.P. IAN SMITH

AS AN ex-Rhodesian and now proud Canadian, I must say that I found your short obituary on the death of Ian Smith, former prime minister of Rhodesia, quite off-putting ("Passing," Dec. 1). Smith was a charming, self and principled leader who challenged Britain for the right to lead his country out of its colonial past toward full democracy in a peaceful and pragmatic manner most appropriate to his history and culture. Particularly impressive was your use of that common word "apartheid" in connection with Rhodesia, a term originally coined to describe South Africa's abhorrent racial policies. Rhodesians were not South Africa. Yet, Rhodesian white and black fought against the "apartheid" as waged by black racists. So would any country threatened by Communist imperial

Chinese and Russian-trained and armed terrorists, which is what we called Rhodesia because that is exactly what they were.

One product of this war was Robert Mugabe, a terrorist leader whose policies of self-censorship and aggression toward the country's agricultural base and economic independence, I wonder how you will choose to write his obituary? *Bert Stakenborg, Ipswich, Ont.*

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

YOUR STORY about car brokers importing U.S. cars into Canada ("Car buyers make a run for the border," Business, Nov. 24) just confirms what we Canadians have known for a long time—we are being gouged by the car companies in this country. And restricting U.S. dealers to selling to a certain country or region works well to Canadians is a step in the direction of the open market system. Well, the age is up. *Allison Phillips, Port Huron, B.C.*

GETTING DEFENSIVE

THE CONFERENCE of Defence Associations makes no apologies for the fact that it receives most of its funding from the Department of National Defence, and has done for much of the past 75 years ("This age is brought to you by..." National, Nov. 26). The current conditions for CDA's annual grant were originally foreseen under the previous Liberal government. This grant is contingent upon us meeting conditions set by the Treasury Board, which in part are meant to keep the CDA at arm's-length from the government. Specifically, we have to contribute to improved government and public understanding of Canadian defence and security issues and more balanced exploration and



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ANDREW COYNE

I should declare an interest off the top. In 2001, I was named on the Canadian Islamic Congress's "Fifth Annual Report on Anti-Islam in the Media." Under the heading "How the National Post was endangering the well-being of Canadian Muslims," the CIC invited contributors to say Oct. 29, 2001, column 1: reprint the offending passage in full, with a warning that sensitive readers may wish to exercise discretion.

"The massive backlash against innocent Muslims that failed to materialize..."

That would be, um, the only reference to Muslims in the entire piece. To deny, even in passing, that Muslims are being persecuted is, apparently, to "endanger their well-being."

I'm far from sort of extreme sensitivity that the CIC is justly famed in newsrooms across the land. Reports and columns have gone on to being accused by the CIC of anti-Muslim bias on even thinner grounds than I was. And not only opinions. The well-known spokesman for a civil Muslim organization, the Muslim Canadian Congress, triggered his post last year after the president of the CIC, Mohamed Elmagary, accused him publicly of "insulting Islam"—a charge, essentially of apostasy, that left him fuming for his safety.

To most of us, however, the CIC has seemed like more than a nuisance. They do not speak for Islam, and they are not the last word on the subject. They are entitled to their view, of course, but so, in a free and democratic society, are those with whom they take issue.

Or else, until recently. For of late the CIC has found a new partner in its campaign: the state. Not content with treating several innocent charges of religious bias, the CIC has enlisted the force of the law to go after its bad guys, to whom, once, not through any of the traditional legal means by which freedom of speech may be limited, nor with any of the legal system's usual safeguards

of due process, but through a new and soon easily open-ended mechanism: the human rights commission. To be specific, the organization has launched a complaint against *Meinung* before the federal, Ontario and British Columbia human rights commissions, alleging that an article the magazine published last year, excerpted from Mark Steyn's book *America Alone*, "insulted Canadian Muslims to hatred and Islamophobia."

This is not without precedent. Two years ago, the president of yet another Muslim group, the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada, brought a similar complaint against the *Western Standard* before the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission (AHRC), after the magazine published the famous "Derren cartoon," a collection of caricatures on Islamic extremism (his offending series, but by no means all, Muslims). The commission began hearings nine months.

Now are Muslim groups the only complainants to seek the human rights commissions?

The Canadian Islamic Congress has a new partner in its censorship campaign: the state



MOHAMED ELMAGARY, Canadian Islamic Congress president

aid in suppressing speech they find offensive. Just last week, the AHRC ruled a pastor from Red Deer, Stephen Bommie, was guilty of the worst—of writing a letter to the editor of the local paper that said made things about homosexuals. The chairwoman of the commission said she found "a circumstantial connection" between the letter and the hearing of a gay minister two weeks later.

That the CIC and other charter members of the Association of the Persecuted Offended should seek to expose their retaliation by such means is unsurprising. There are great many people in this country who seem to have no clue about what freedom of speech means, or why it was secured. What is surprising

is to find so many of them in the employ of the human rights commissions.

No, rather, I wish to say as well. What's only astounding is that the commissions should have been granted such powers to begin with. As Alan Boonag, general counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, argued recently, "during the years when my colleagues and I were labouring to create such commissions, we never imagined that they might ultimately be used against freedom of speech." To be sure, as a censor, he wrote, was "hardly the role we had envisioned for human rights commissions."

After the commissions have been allowed to stray far from their original purpose of protecting discrimination in employment and housing, into the nebulous world of expression. They succeeded, largely because their early targets were so obvious, marginal figures who scribbled letters to the editor or left hateful messages on their answering machines who went to defend racism and

homophobia? Emboldened, they are now going after mainstream media organizations—*Maclean's*, for Heaven's sakes.

And so, rather than give the back of their hand to the CIC's campaign, we are treated to the spectacle of not one but two human rights commissions—Ottawa's may yet join them—agreeing to launch inquiries. Had the CIC's actions only under Canada's law speech law, as ever based as it is, they would at least have had to provide a *prior* notice to take their case, and to prove it beyond reasonable doubt.

But as it is they can set up the magazine and its lawyers before one commission or another for months. The chill this should send through the nation's newsrooms is obvious.

I don't propose to get into the merits of their complaint: suffice to say I think it is baseless. The point is, it shouldn't have to. *Meinung* shouldn't have to. There is only one proper outcome for this after more months than the CIC's complaint should be thrown out, but that the commissions' power to hear such cases should be removed. If they have no business meddling with speech.

ON THE WEB: For more, Andrew Coyne will be blog at www.usnews.ca/intercolumny



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MORE THAN JUST A CARD

Baby steps from Sarkozy, but steps all the same



PAUL WELLS

A sociologist named Pierre Bourdieu organized our year-to-year lives, at least so, the other day in France. A "day without him" meant his absence from the land of play where you know who "he" is without having to ask. Nicolas Sarkozy. Also the kind of place where Bourdieu's concepts—the weird TV, radio and the newspapers to refuse from availing the *Omniprésident* for the entire day of Friday, Nov. 10—would be a flop.

A lollypop, as it turned out. By Thursday night Sarkozy had been out of France for four days and was therefore, automatically, jostling for TV cameras. Two television networks obliged and he sat for a one-hour staged prime-time interview. The audience he drew, 39 million people, watched the TV ratings for the rugby world cup. On the final day, the Sarkozy meg was on the front of rather more newspapers than, say, the likes of sociologist Pierre Bourdieu. When he gives the French himself, Sarkozy is only giving "em what they want.

We had much to discuss. Two cities. One has and France: two regions of ruling in the suburbs of Paris and *bidonville*. The other floating and ambient the same that, six months into his presidency, Sarkozy hasn't made the necessary work noticeably better for ordinary French citizens.

Of course the two are related. If jobs and decent homes are out of reach for too many in the middle of Paris, they are unacceptably distant for too many in the concrete housing projects that ring the capital and other big cities. Poverty is a real reality even in the wealthiest societies. Poverty you can't get away off is maddening. Sarkozy set about devising the link.

The meters had worked hard to discredit themselves without his help. Since France's infamous weeks of laborious unrest in 2005, there have been a series of less provocative fire-rings, shorter in duration but increas-

ingly vicious. This time more than 100 police officers were injured. In 2005 the rioters mostly burned cars. This time they used shovels to spray the faces and groins of body-armored cops with lead pellets.

Sarkozy gave this behavior its proper name—"assaulted in order"—and said the perpetrators would be fined, arrested, and sent to criminal court. Trying to explain their behavior would be "excusing it," he said. "It's an every unemployed person who shoots at police."

That's true. Vigorous police work has to be the first response to public violence. Most residents of Villiers are in decent and law-abiding in anyone else. They've been terrorized their neighbors most of all.



The Omniprésident is chipping away at the rock face of France's entrenched privileges

But what do you do once you've rounded up this year's crop of thugs? Try to keep them apart from growing up. And so many ways, Villiers looks like a nightmare pond.

I spent a few hours walking around the riot area in daylight after the second night of violence. It's actually far from the worst neighborhood you'll ever visit. A half-hour north of Paris by commuter rail, it has a thriving commercial high street, some parks, schools, a public library. Much of it is new with sheltered windows or worse. But as I looked for signs of recent government activity I could find only two construction sites: 66 units of new social housing and a sprawling police headquarters on the rise. New social housing is better than old social housing, but this message is under it that you're never getting out of here. Police headquarters tell you you'll be watched.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate in neighborhood Villiers like this across France is as high as 40 per cent, and it's long-term unemployment. Now lose a job, there isn't another waiting. For these people it must be astonishing that Sarkozy seems to be every-

where because he never seems to get around to finding a way out of the hellholes.

In his TV interview, he made variations, behind first stage. He will defend forever the way he's spent the spring and summer cutting capital taxes and allowing new taxes, measures that will never touch people in Villiers, who have little capital and leave no inheritance. Now he is finally loosening up the labor market and the housing market. Companies where a majority of employees want to work longer than a 35-hour week will be allowed to let them. Employees will be encouraged to work their off days on terms for bonus pay. Work has a funny way of creating work. If each new hire can be expected to put in a solid workweek, more hiring makes more

sense. Expect employment to increase. More jobs for people who aren't seen any yet. New apartment-builders in France must pay truly bewildering deposits up front, typically two months' rent and more. Sarkozy will cut that to a single month. This puts a first apartment into more people's grasp.

Baby steps. And more to come. This is the surprise from Sarkozy that week, for those of us who wondered whether he would ever as he have the guts for revolution. In fact he's an incrementalist. He resisted the urge to crow about how short the big public sector strikes were, because he will be firing the same unions over more reforms another time. He is chipping away at the rock face of France's entrenched privileges and regulations. Inevitable and frustrating. His popularity is walking steadily downward. But compare him to the erstwhile wonderland from next door, Gordon Brown, who jitters from slow motion, at least, a motion. M

ON THE WEB For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at www.moonbase.eu/voices/wells

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MORE THAN JUST A CARD



Why did so many trust this man?

How Karlheinz Schreiber charmed—and spooked—politicians in two countries

BY JONATHAN GATHEHOUSE AND COLIN CAMPBELL

Endless questions and no real answers. Karlheinz Schreiber's first appearance before a parliamentary committee probing his relationship with former prime minister Brian Mulroney offered little relief to those hoping for a resolution to a real, or imagined, scandal that has made headlines for almost 15 years. If the truth ended with you, there, indications are that the German-born businessman, lobbyist and Supreme Canada lobbyist would like to keep Canadians captive for the foreseeable future.

Schreiber arrived on Parliament Hill in handshakes this week, but he was all smiles and effort there as he appeared before the ethics committee promising to deliver "the world." He didn't catch his disapproval, handing over, amidst laughter from gleeful MPs, thick black binders containing what he said was all of his correspondence with Brian Mulroney, and with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "This is a wonderful Christmas gift to us," gushed committee chair Paul Szabo, who notes that Schreiber gave a copy to the committee for the way he was shown on television with police officers, barely holding up his bearded pants to their latrines in Ottawa before this week to release documents. "The sharing of our Canadian has helped all Canadians," said Szabo.

Some fireworks, then, but as it turned out, no bomb shells. Under questioning, Schreiber continued to fire home his story about the \$300,000 in cash payments he made to Mulroney in 1993 and 1994. Thomey, however, was critical for Mulroney's help after he left government to push a project in Bear Head, Cape Breton, where the German company Thyssen Industries AG wanted to build light aircraft and sail yachts. It had nothing to do with Airbus, he said, and was not meant for any service provided during his tenure as prime minister. The deal had recently been agreed to do business together on Jan. 31, 1995, two days before Mulroney stepped down as PM, but money wasn't discussed at that time, and Schreiber.

Schreiber will be back before the committee

but he is in no rush to deliver more than a trickle of information now. While testifying on Tuesday he was informed that he had been granted a 15 to 20-minute delay after eight weeks spent in detention. And so he left Parliament Hill a new man, free to stay in Canada until at least January, when the Supreme Court of Canada will decide whether to hear his appeal to halt his extradition to Germany.

There's good reason to believe Schreiber is a shyster. Which remains unproven—what, for instance, happened to the \$10 million in commissions he received from the sale of Airbus planes to Air Canada in 1988, or the \$10 million more he received for helping sell bid copies to the Coast Guard and for pushing the Bear Head deal—and, as tacticians, Schreiber and his 600 lawyers have few peers. After all, it takes no less than a decade since an investigating judge in Augsburg, Germany, issued a warrant for the businessman's arrest on charges of evading

criminal liabilities to the Supreme Court made the third attempt to extradite Canada's top judges in the case. In addition, three different federal justice ministers have now reviewed the file, on a total of six occasions.

German officials have complained repeatedly about the lengthy delay. And although Schreiber was reportedly within hours of being put on a plane this past Dec. 4, when the Supreme Court rejected his second appeal bid, few in his homeland were holding their breath. John Goetz, a journalist for Der Spiegel who has followed the saga for more than a decade, says the public is tired of the story. "It will be long dead when he returns, but until then, no one cares."

For those who are paying attention, Schreiber's allegations of Canadian corruption and discreditable immunity claims are a certain claim and quality. The German police probe into the former dealer's extradition morphed into a full-fledged domestic political scandal in 1999, when it was revealed that Walter Eicher Kopp, then treasurer for former chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, received more than \$1 million in cash from Schreiber during a 1991 meeting in a restaurant parking lot in Switzerland. The "donations" was never declared to German election officials, and questions emerged whether the money



THAT SCHREIBER TOUCH: Key on trial, Schreiber only recently returned to public life, in the Munich cabinet

was some kind of kickback from Thyssen related to its sale to Saudi Arabia. More revelations—passed on by press sources who matched Schreiber's downy bank records with his meticulously kept claims—followed. Although Schreiber was an active lobbyist in Canada at the time, his connections to European companies kept him very busy in his native land. His last hours in both Europe and Canada, and his business dealings were rooted in Liechtenstein-based shell companies. In early 2000, Wolfgang Schäuble, Kohl's successor as leader of the CDU, admitted that he had accepted an undisclosed \$300,000 DM contribution from Schreiber in 1994 (Schreiber himself called it a bribe

was some kind of kickback from Thyssen related to its sale to Saudi Arabia. More revelations—passed on by press sources who matched Schreiber's downy bank records with his meticulously kept claims—followed. Although Schreiber was an active lobbyist in Canada at the time, his connections to European companies kept him very busy in his native land. His last hours in both Europe and Canada, and his business dealings were rooted in Liechtenstein-based shell companies. In early 2000, Wolfgang Schäuble, Kohl's successor as leader of the CDU, admitted that he had accepted an undisclosed \$300,000 DM contribution from Schreiber in 1994 (Schreiber himself called it a bribe

ted to Bear Hotel), and was forced to resign. Kohl himself admitted to taking illicit funds and paid a huge fine. In the end, "Kohl's pie," as it was called, spawned a wide-ranging parliamentary inquiry, charges against several prominent figures from German politics and business, and a scandal that has tainted the name of one CDU official.

The affair also raised new questions about Schröder, who was by then a fugitive. In August 2006, another Augsburg judge ordered him to stand on the accusations of fraud, bribery and breach of trust in connection with the 1991 deal. He backed to sell 36 Thyssen AG tanks to Saudi Arabia. The total value of the contract was 446 million DM, of which almost half, or some 236 million DM, reportedly went to bribes and secret commissions. (Schröder is specifically accused of falsifying the Saudi bid at 4 million DM, and passing on inflated amounts to two Thyssen executives, Hans-Joachim Luecke and Ludwig Pöhlke, a former German deputy minister of defense.)

From his self-imposed exile, Schröder has done his best to keep the pot boiling in Germany too by offering up tidbits of information over the years, but Der Spiegel's Götz says the public eventually tired of his revelations. "People kind of got sick of someone from the outside throwing bombs into our domestic politics," he says. The country has clearly moved on—in November 2005, Schröder returned from the political wilderness to become junior minister in Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet.

Say what? How did Kohl become Schröder's surrogate to become the center of scandal in two countries at once? His place in the spotlight is particularly understandable given his modest start in life. He was born in rural Germany in 1934, the youngest of 11 kids in an oil-pipe town. His mother was a cook and his father, who served in the German army during the war, was absent for a good chunk of his childhood. Brought up in war-torn Germany, he didn't have much of an education, but he did find a few interests in business. Schröder found his first success in an adult-importing enterprise from Iran into Bavaria. From there, he took a job in Ludwigsburg, a city near Munich, which had road-making company, selling a new type of repair trowel on roads (not with pause but by inserting reflective material into asphalt). When the owner died in a car crash, the up-and-comer took over. A young man

in his 20s with visions of grander things, Schröder set up a shell company in Luxembourg, and went about making the right connections with politicians who could help his growing company.

While Schröder wasn't blessed with either talent or good looks ("born ugly, not raped," he quipped during his first appearance before the parliamentary committee last week), he displayed a rare gift for making friends with powerful, ambitious people. By the 1960s, that included Bavarian politician Franz Josef Strauss (someone with business ties to Canada who would help pay Schröder's interest in the country, and later gave the way for his introduction to a young Canadian lawyer named Brian Mulroney).

In 1975, after meeting a group of Germans on a trade mission to Germany, Schröder was convinced that Canada was a promising

of dollars. With a recession looming and his former trading, Schröder's surrogate with the province was over.

But Schröder, who had become a Communist in 1968 (Munich money searches a constitutional relic), had already turned his attention toward Montreal and a cadre of federal Conservatives, including Fred Doucet and Frank Moores, who were willing to dislodge party leader Joe Clark and replace him with the boy from base Canada. In 1981, Schröder poured money into the damp Clark campaign, paying as much as \$50,000 in fly-into-Clark deposits to a party convention in Winnipeg. Clark received a lukewarm vote of confidence and was forced to call the leadership convention that would see Mulroney take over the party. Schröder's duties in Canada suddenly looked a whole lot brighter.

When the young, dynamic Tory leader

AFTER HELTING behind the "damp Joe Clark" bid, Schröder stayed close to Brian Mulroney.



Mulroney's election win suddenly gave Schröder ready access to Ottawa insiders

place to expand his road-making company. Within a year, he had set up shop in Ottawa, and with his business partner, Giorgio Pedraza, set off on a tour of the country. After settling in Calgary, Schröder quickly made contacts with politicians in Prime Lougheed's government. But his evergreen advances didn't go over with the premier's hand, who according to Stone Cameron and Harvey Goldberg's book *The Last Days* told his most senior officials that he would not put up with any of them doing business with Schröder.

In the fast-growing city of Edmonton, Schröder soon got involved in much more than road-making, including some complicated and suspicious land deals that in 1982 earned record, earning his investors millions

steps to power with a crucial tag money in the fall of 1984. Once Mulroney's election gave the German immigrant ready access to Ottawa's new power brokers. Working with Mulroney and his firm Government

Consultants International, Schröder started to lobby the government on behalf of German manufacturers (A deal between Schröder still had powerful ties and connections in Germany, including to his old friend Franz Josef Strauss.) There was plenty of business. Airbus wanted to sell its passenger jets to the soon-to-be-promoted Air Canada. Mulroney's brother-in-law, Bobbie (Bobbie) Mulroney, was seeking a contract with the Coast Guard for search and rescue helicopters. Thyssen AG was looking for government subsidies to help establish a light aircraft vehicle factory on Bear Head, Cape Breton. And Schröder, with his extensive connections, promised value for money. By the late 1980s Schröder had even hedged his bet on the Conservatives by sub-

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OVER ICE IN A TALL GLASS

FILL WITH CLUB SODA

SQUEEZE A LIME WEDGE AND DROP IN

THINK OF IT AS A

SECRET RITUAL ONLY WITHOUT

THE BILLY MASKS



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THE SPIRIT LIVES ON

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY

ingaret ties with influential Liberals. He was a lobbyist with enough juice to fly into the capital on short notice, and as *The Last Days of America*, have dinner with a former Liberal cabinet minister the first night, brunch with the Conservative prime minister the next morning, and dinner with a Supreme Court justice the following evening.

The chaos in Ottawa on those days was breathtaking, recalls Allan Gregg, an adviser and pollster for the Mulroney

the *New York Times* that "Karlheinz is basically an honest and decent person." But Mulroney, a talented generalist under Mulroney who in 1995 helped Schreiber gain admission to a German estate warren when he flew with him from Switzerland to Toronto, has been conspicuously quiet lately. He was dropped deeper into the Schreiber messes when he admitted this week that he had a hand in writing a letter of apology that Schreiber

if any, wound up being the godfathers of high-ranking Ottawa politicians. The long-standing allegations has always been that Schreiber used money to somehow influence Air Canada's decision in 1989 to buy 34 planes from Airbus worth \$1.1 billion. All that's known at this point is that Mulroney accepted three \$250,000 cash payments from Schreiber in 1991 and 1994 for help on the Bear Head project, according to Schreiber. The plane was never built and Schreiber has tried to try and recoup the money. This week, he told the parliamentary committee that he would have paid Mulroney at most \$1,000,000 if the deal had worked out.

There may have been something improper about the \$250,000 Mulroney received, but Mulroney has been evasive about the nature

The unanswered question: where are the millions Schreiber spent as a lobbyist?



IT WAS MY OPINION, Peter Mackay says of father Elmer, that he should not associate with Mr. Schreiber

The good times didn't run late. Nevertheless, even Schreiber's once loyal friends seem to have abandoned him. One of the few to speak publicly in support of him is mentor Mel LaLoonde, the former Liberal finance minister who helped persuade Schreiber after he was arrested in 1998. Earlier this month, he told the *Canadian Press* he would not in a hurry to ever again, and true to his word, he did so this week. "It's a Canadian citizen who has never been convicted of anything in this country. He was entitled to be," LaLoonde described Schreiber as "a pretty able businessman. He's certainly a guy who mixes extremely well, and knows his way around. It's quite remarkable." But LaLoonde wouldn't talk about Schreiber's involvement with Mulroney. "I don't know anything about their relationships," he said. Nor was he willing to say anything more about Schreiber's Mulroney's. "Finally, I have nothing to add to what I said at that time," he wrote in an email last week.

In 2000, much of Schreiber's long-time friends and supporters, Elmer MacKay, told

him to Mulroney in 2006. The letter said there was nothing improper about the controversial cash payments he made to the former prime minister in 1991 and 1994. In recent weeks, Schreiber has claimed that Mulroney asked for the letter to show to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and that in return it would show their help with extradition. Mulroney's camp says the letter came as a surprise.

As for the long and controversial, even Elmer MacKay's son, current Defence Minister Peter MacKay, has sought to distance himself from his father. "I don't really talk money further in depth about his friendships," he told *Optimist* last week. "But I can tell you that it was my opinion for a number of years that he should not associate with Mr. Schreiber, and I voiced that opinion."

The unanswered question: what has his living over Schreiber for well over a decade now when the millions of dollars he spent around Canada as a lobbyist and on other in secret commissions ended up, and how much of

of his relationship with Schreiber. In 1995, he testified that he only met Schreiber once or twice since leaving office. He did not mention the cash payments—they became public only in 2006 in a report in the *Globe and Mail*. And Mulroney, through a spokesman, has since called accepting the money "the silliest thing I have ever done."

The Bear Head deal still raises concerns among some who were close to Mulroney in the early 1990s. Norman Spector, a former Mulroney chief of staff, has said that Mulroney told him the deal was off after he told the prime minister that it would cost taxpayer \$110 million. But that wasn't the end of it. Spector says he was surprised to learn that his successor still dealing with the proposal. "What struck me as abnormal was that this deal project had risen from the ashes," says Spector. "There was a bunch of strange things happening during my two years in the PMO that is retrospectively very strange," he adds. "I thought it was a bit strange that this project had such backing and the way it

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was going." Not every project proposed in Ottawa, after all, ends up in the Prime Minister's Office, says Spence.

There's no doubt that Schroeder had a gift at making friends in high places, particularly well-placed politicians in both Canada and Germany. Besides Stevens, the minister of industry at the time the Bear Head plant was actually proposed, says he always believed the project had come in a way to spur development in a have-not region, but never had much time for it, says Stevens. "Schroeder was very aggressive," says Stevens, recalling their first encounter during an official visit to Germany. Schroeder seemed to "pop up" everywhere, including at a peace party held at the home of then-Bavarian premier—and eventual chairman of Airbus—Franz Josef Strauss. "He was certainly a man about town in Bavaria; he was very well-connected." Within a short time, Schroeder was similarly well-connected in Ottawa, says the former minister. "He nurtured personal relationships with all the senior people in power," says Stevens, who was forced to resign from cabinet in 1994 and faced a public inquiry into conflict of interest allegations. (In 2004, a federal court judge overturned the inquiry's findings, ruling that the investigation had held the minister to too strict a standard.) "He went out of his way to be a friend."

But he was far from universally liked. In fact, he was hated by many Ottawa business leaders. Spence ended up dealing with Schroeder only after Paul Toller, Canada's top public servant at the time, had thrown the man out of his office. "Schroeder was essentially doing character assassination on a number of public servants. He was convinced there was a conspiracy against him by public servants being paid by GM, who were building light-rail systems in Ottawa," says Spence. "He was operating purely at the political level. He had no support at the bureaucratic level."

Even among those Mulroney-era enablers, Schroeder had a bad reputation. John Crosbie, a transport minister under Mulroney, wasn't sold on Schroeder's charm. "I don't know why it was, but from the beginning I felt uneasy about him," said Crosbie in a telephone interview from his law office in St. John's. "I just didn't feel comfortable with him as somebody who wanted to use personal trying to persuade me to do something one way or the other." Crosbie didn't have a relationship with Schroeder, but it wasn't far off effort on Schroeder's part. In their one meeting, Schroeder sat and very intently talked not about Airbus, but about the Bear Head project, recalls Crosbie.

Crosbie is a legal supporter of Mulroney. And he maintains that his mutual enmity in the 1980s into the so-called Airbus

After should have closed the book on the subject. Although there was a lot of money being spent on lobbying by both Airbus and Boeing, there was nothing wrong with Air Canada's decision to purchase planes from Airbus and there was no improper influence from any government official, he says. Another public enabler would be aware of time, he says.

That may be true, but Schroeder's past dealings in Canada continue to haunt the country. In 1997, Mulroney sued the government of Canada for naming him, Schroeder and Mulroney in a 1991 letter sent to Swiss authorities asking for help investigating "criminal activity" surrounding Air Canada's purchase

SCHROEDER at the Ottawa hearings: 'Like a barbershop. Anything to do with him stinks.'



Karlheinz Schroeder

This is an issue that invites partisanship, Crosbie says. 'Ottawa politicians are in heat.'

of Airbus. Mulroney won, but Schroeder leaves him still. Questions about Mulroney's role in the Airbus and Bear Head affairs simply refuse to die. And the prospect that Schroeder will start talking—and perhaps start spelling the names of politicians on the take—up to forestal extradition has Ottawa in a frenzy. "Unfortunately, this is an issue that creates political partisanship," says Cros-

bie. "The politicians are in heat in Ottawa. When this kind of political heat strikes it's not controllable. It's an unending spectacle." And few people who have had close contact with Schroeder have been able to shake the impression that there was something nefarious in their dealings. "My son has suggested to me recently that he's like the barbershop," Crosbie says about Schroeder. "Has anything to do with him, he stinks."

But McMillan, Mulroney's former minister of the environment, expresses similar doubts about the allegations working around his former boss. "I just find it all out of character for him. Not so much in moral grounds, but politically," he says from his Boston home. "Mulroney had a very healthy sense of purpose, and operated on the principle that everything you do in the dark of night you'd eventually find the light of day."

Those competing—and frequently contradictory—visions of Mulroney, Schroeder, and their odd relationship are what the House ethics committee, pushing a public inquiry, and ultimately the Canadian people will have to unravel over the coming months. And the fugitive businessman, who doesn't take pains to hide his delight at the fuss he has created, is unlikely to make things easy. He has already suggested he will need a significant amount of time to go over his stash of 50,000 documents in Toronto, Ottawa and Switzerland. (Schroeder is, if nothing else, a pack rat and meticulous record keeper. When German authorities seized his house in October 1995, the last things seen were, they found eight boxes of book accounts in a storage room.)

Four years of appointments during the bedroom, three address books, a box of cards and letters in the attic, can party records and memoranda in the workshop, and somewhere there. (More than 15 years now, Schroeder has been gleefully throwing money wreaths into the political machinery of both his homeland and his adopted home, his seemingly endless supply of associates able to find the front pages even from his seat behind bars. Now, across the Atlantic in his new life, he's not happy. "This is a disaster," he says. "I am in a state of panic. I will be depending on the Karlheinz Schroeder show anytime soon."

FOR THE RECORD

HELPING CANADIANS WORK THROUGH THEIR WOES

"Some of your media colleagues are acting like satirical buffoons when they're talking about the Mulroney case," says Mulroney. "I don't know if that's a compliment or not, but I think probably it will turn out that the Mulroney's reputation will be left intact and it will soon be forgotten." —Paul Mulroney, former vice secretary to Preston Manning of the Reform party, regarding the nation's continuing fixation on the Karlheinz Schroeder saga.

The 'BMW' of Canadian marijuana



QUEBEC now produces more cannabis than British Columbia.

BY MARTIN PATRICHON • As the province's reigning cash crop, British Columbia's marijuana—or B.C. Roll, as it's known—has a certain cachet among potheads. But the province's reputation, dubious though it is, is under threat from Quebec, which according to a new study has likely overtaken Canada's left coast as the producer of choice for stoners in south of the border.

Citing police cannabis seizure statistics from B.C., Quebec, and Ontario, Université de Montréal researcher Serge Boivin says Quebec's production has rocketed past B.C.'s in the last three years—worth three times the number of seizures in Quebec's roll B.C. While the numbers partly reflect increased police vigilance, he says efforts by the province's well-oiled and dedicated growers have ensured a wealth of new marijuana strains that have "gained quite a reputation in the milieu."

The recent popularity is a point of pride for Charlie McKessie. An attorney at Montréal's Compassion Centre, which sells 11 different strains of Quebec marijuana to anyone with a doctor's note, McKessie has seen the change first-hand. "Even though there's been police busts, the market is still flooded," McKessie says. "There's so much weed out there." A growing acceptance of the drug as a painkiller has removed part of its stigma. "We see a lot less meet people coming in," McKessie says, "and a lot more little old ladies from Ontario come. I think our sensitive lawmakers on the West Coast are driven by capitalism." McKessie adds: "They've worn jeans very much as a cash crop, while herb is hot here. They are tinkering with the plant in much as they do here, so they must produce the equivalent of Chevy Chase. Here, we find use BMWs and cars and Mercedes the next."

Quebec's marijuana grows have nonetheless suffered as of late: like all exporters of goods to the United States, the strong border has become a bane to the borderless line. ■

For refugees, more chaos at the border

BY CHRIS KELLEY • "The United States has a proud record of accepting and protecting refugees and adhering to our treaty obligations," U.S. Ambassador David Wilkins proclaimed last week in Ottawa. Among those who disagree is Federal Court Justice Michael Housh, who on Friday ruled that the landmark 2006 Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the U.S. is unconstitutional. The agreement was designed to prevent "asylum shopping" by refugee claimants—many of whom would arrive in the U.S. and then head north to a Canadian border crossing—by forcing them to make their claim at the first of the two countries they set foot in. But the "U.S. does not meet the Refugee Convention requirements [or] the Convention Against Torture," Housh wrote—a significant victory for refugee advocates who have long argued that turning back asylum-seekers to the U.S. puts them in significant peril.

In recent months, would-be refugees have been exposing embarrassing loopholes in the current system. The refugee system doesn't apply to those who don't need a visa to come to Canada, hence the most influx of Mexican migrants entering from the U.S. and claiming refugee status in Windsor, Ont. (despite a barely one-in-10 chance of eventually gaining that status). Cubans and Venezuelans would simply be turned back, but dozens have recently been sneaking across the border into southern Quebec because the Safe Third Country Agreement literally only applies at land border crossings—not at Canadian ports or airports, and not in the backwoods of northern Vermont.



THE PHILAINS ruling on refugees could cause havoc

Even when effort is made, thousands fleeing the clutches of the refugee system in opposition, the Conservatives in government have let the number of vacancies on the Immigration and Refugee Board rise to more than 11,000. Processing times have increased 20 per cent; those wait more than 30,000 backlogged cases. The system has little capacity for thousands more. ■

Surprise: your kid is smarter than you think

BY PETER SHAWN TAYLOR • There seems no limit to the ways in which Canada's school system is failing. Our schools are failing to engage boys, failing to serve immigrants, failing to prepare students for work, failing to prepare young children for life, failing even to full students who don't deserve to pass. But for all these alleged failures, Canadian students continue to outperform most other countries' students in studies of academic performance.

Last week saw the confidential release of two major international test results. The



INTERNATIONAL tests show that our students are among the best

Programs in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) examined reading comprehension among Grade 4 students in 40 countries and five Canadian provinces. Every province did better than significantly above the global average. Alberta was among the elite group in which 99 per cent of all students met basic literacy requirements.

Canada also scored very highly in an OECD study of 15-year-olds' science knowledge and problem-solving abilities that covered 57 countries and 400,000 students. We ranked third, just behind Finland and Hong Kong. In fact, Canada has consistently delivered top mark performances in nearly every international study assessment of this type. Far from a failure, our school system seems quite respectable. So why the pessimism at home?

Paul Cappon, president and CEO of the federally funded Canadian Council on Learning, respects exaggerated expectations as at the heart of it. "Many of the challenges laid at the doors of our schools are really social issues," he observes, listing topics such as childhood obesity or social cohesion that are beyond the purview of teachers alone. And having set impossibly high goals for the school system, Cappon figures Canadian parents need to disbelieve good test results as being inconsistent with their own feelings of angst. "We always think other countries are doing better," he notes. Very few are. ■



Lise Anne Couture
Co-President, Royal Bank of Canada

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TRADING FOR VOTES

Where do the Democratic contenders really stand on NAFTA?

BY KAREN CH. BARNAGE • Since launching her campaign for the White House, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton has disclosed "several declassifications" with a significant admission: her own husband's presidency, the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico. NAFTA and the way it's been implemented has hurt a lot of American workers," she told the ABC's *20/20* in August, and called for a "broad reform in our approach to trade." In another entire audio clip in June, she complained that incomes were falling to Mexico for cheaper labor and in Canada for cheaper health care. She has promised to declare a "time out" on the signing of new trade agreements if elected and has pledged to set up a five-year "review" of existing trade agreements beginning, of course, with NAFTA, which she said should be "adjusted." On the campaign trail, she was a repeat of the same in the Senate about NAFTA in hounding her adopted home state of New York. And ending her "Middle Class Agenda" has one of the key primary tests of how she will be ruling: "deep down" and holding a "tension conversation" on trade.

Much ink has been spilled about how her views are "evolving" away from those of her husband. But as with many things in Bill Clinton's life, the policies are fairly coherent and the rhetoric even more fully calculated on the issue that divides Democrats (the leading Republican considers are free traders—except the audaciously surprising dark horse Mike Huckabee, who has criticized trade deals). Only one Democratic candidate, Ohio congressman Dennis Kucinich, is actually calling for immediate withdrawal from NAFTA—but between his far-left platform and his claimed sighting of a UFO, his chances of becoming president are about as good as the current congression of the White House audaciously undermining that in the interim. Clinton made a mistake back in 2000 and handing things off to Al Gore.

Clinton's most ardent foe is John Edwards, the millennial trial lawyer who never tired pointing out that he is the son of a milliner he worked at the day when Americans had decided to change class. Edwards has made the failures of trade agreements a

cornerpiece of his populist message about the beleaguered middle class. Edwards's point is to "revise" NAFTA to strengthen protection for the environment and labor. And he is now in a three-way tie with Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama in Iowa, where the primary system is held on Jan. 1. Obama also told a union audience that "I would immediately tell the president of Mexico, she produce [sic] in Canada, to stop to amend NAFTA because I think that we can get labor agreements in that agreement right now."

Just exactly how a "revision" of the 1993 treaty would work is unclear. It is possible

was supposed to allow Mexican trucks to operate in the U.S., but has been blocked by howls of outrage in Congress. Now, Mexico might raise the small matter of 13 million undocumented workers in the U.S. So the leaders could find another common denominator on the basis of North America, the World Trade Organization, and globalization. It's the kind of hot list, once agreed, might prove very hard to do. "It would be a question of whether Canada and Mexico thought it was in their interests to respect just a small section of the agreement," says Jeffrey Schier, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for

the study of NAFTA on free business people, our workers and our farmers," he said in an econoemagazine Oct. 8. Yet the finished product does not deal with workers who lose their jobs in factories that move out of the country. Rather, the Sept. 26, 2006, 10-page report is focused on one thing: its

place in proposed legislation to move away from trade agreements entered into by the U.S. two years after it goes into effect and every five years after that, seven by seven. The review would be required to analyze how each agreement is fostering growth, improving living standards and creating U.S. jobs, and would report whether the partner country had changed its labor and environmental laws. Clinton has said NAFTA would be the first.

Trade specialists say such a process is unlikely to lead to major changes. Why? Because under her bill the body that would review the agreements would not be labor-union-funded think tanks, or some group of politically motivated members of Congress, but an already existing independent government agency called the International Trade Commission. This is a body that undertakes

A Clinton test on this issue played out earlier this month, and it too showed Clinton favoring the pragmatic camp. The House of Representatives voted on a new trade agreement with Peru. The volume of trade involved was small, but the vote was a landmark because the agreement included for the first time an agreement to labor and environmental standards in the core text of the agreement. The language prohibiting "forced labor" labor rights and enforcement of labor laws reflected a compromise agreement reached by Democrats on the House ways and means committee and the Bush administration. It would set the new standard for U.S. trade agreements.

Advocates for tough labor and environmental protection backed it. "The standards are vague and very difficult to enforce," Robert Scott, a senior international economist at the Economic Policy Institute, a pro-labor think tank in Washington, told Maclean's. John Edwards denounced the Peru initiative as another "NAFTA. The trade agreement that will needlessly cost American more jobs and hurt middle-class working families."

But after a lengthy silence, Clinton finally endorsed the deal, citing the labor and environment "evolutionary progress in advancing workers' rights." She said she would oppose other pending treaties with South Korea and Colombia for similar reasons, but the Peru agreement's standards were apparently different. It passed the Senate on Tuesday.

That's not to say Clinton is all talk without comes to helping workers. She has proposed expanding a federal program that gives money and benefits to workers who lose their jobs due to trade agreements—to cover workers who become unemployed not only if a plant moves abroad but if their jobs are "outsourced" abroad, and for the provisions to include countries that do not have trade agreements with the U.S.—such as China and India.

"There is a strong commitment to helping people hurt by trade and spreading the benefits of trade," says Mac Diney, a trade and politics specialist at the University of Maryland, "but that says the state thing—though strong, being more cautious about it." In Clinton's plans, David says "nothing that is a serious threat to our economy." So Clinton may not be too worried about recognizing NAFTA, but it might want to review the rules on apples from New York state. ■



CLINTON SAYS SHE WOULD REVIEW THE AGREEMENT OR NOT.

that a U.S. president might simply open up most of the agreement's text, the side agreements on labor and the environment—and make a decision to change them. But Clinton and Obama to review it as it is. But it's not Mike Huckabee and Canada would come to any negotiation with their own with him. Clinton would begin with a provision that

International Economics, a think tank in Washington. "The answer would be no."

But if Clinton gets a grip on her Post-millennialist, and their marriage to the presidency, it probably won't come to that. Behind her "fine line" is the trade is a pragmatic approach. That has meant on NAFTA, I did a study last year in New York looking

ONLY ONE DEMOCRAT HAS CALLED FOR SCRAPPING NAFTA

proving access to Canadian markets for New York state agriculture.

Founded "Farmers United by New York state agricultural producers to trade with Canada," it complains that Canada unfairly limits imports of New York state apples (we import less than the U.S.), wheat, corn, soybeans, cabbage, potatoes, flowers, and "cheese smelt fish." Clinton writes, "The Canadian government must address these costly and time-consuming barriers to trade with New York, which are unfairly disadvantageous New York producers."

This is the lead of prime trading attention to local grapes that helped New York's orange get beyond a

pledged to her last last year but it's hardly a promise in chancery. In fact, it's the reverse. "She's saying, 'I want to expand NAFTA to cover areas that aren't covered'."

The problem is that NAFTA didn't liberalize enough in agriculture," says Schier. (For the record, Clinton's ambassador Michael Wilson has rejected her complaints. In a public letter, he noted, among other things, that Canada takes in 72 percent of New York state's agricultural exports, and that apple exports have quadrupled in recent years.) And for all her bluster, Clinton's proposed NAFTA "revision" also poses little threat to the agreement. On Oct. 26, she declined her



NEO-PENALTY NAFTA means addressing thorny issues such as undocumented Mexican workers and product imports.

symbolic investigations into violations of trade law. It makes protectionists such as, "there is a reasonable industry that a U.S. industry is currently injured by reason of imports of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film sheets, and strip from Brazil, China, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates that are allegedly sold in the United States at less than fair value." Not exactly a bumper sticker.

Could the commission actually conclude that NAFTA is bad for U.S. workers? It would be very hard using any of its economic techniques to reach that conclusion," says Schier. Coupled with Clinton's pledge to "aggressively enforce our trade agreements," and a promise to appoint a "trade enforcement officer" and double the staff at the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, her policies should be more to the point of U.S. companies who want to put the squeeze on foreign competitors. She wants to play hardball on trade, but unlike Edwards she's not seriously aiming at changing the rules at all. What she wants is the same national and labor concerns that have Edwards warned that the U.S. middle class has been sold out.

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AFTER THE ELECTION, Putin is stronger than ever, in spite of Bush's democracy lectures

THE BIG CHILL

Washington is finding it has little leverage with Vladimir Putin's Russia

BY SUZIE CH. SAVAGE • In the wake of Sunday's Russian parliamentary elections, in which President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party scored a crushing but disputed victory with 64 per cent of the vote and a supermajority of seats, President George W. Bush called up the man he once called Pootie-Pootie. It wasn't to congratulate the former KGB agent on getting what Putin calls a "historic" 50-day or so sabbatical as "interim leader," with enough seats to enable him to amend the Russian constitution in order to run for a third term. Neither was Bush on the phone to express his savings over Putin and his supporters' unrelenting opposition parties, looking up political accounts, and basking in reported Putin for orchestrating an actual vote that observers have deduced rife with cheating and abuses.

Instead, the subject of the 40-minute phone call was Iran. Bush explained that a new U.S. intelligence estimate, confirming for the first

time that Iran had a covert nuclear weapons program but had abandoned it in 2001, did not change his conviction that Iran should not be allowed to enrich uranium that could eventually be diverted to create weapons. Bush reiterated his support for Putin's position: that Iran should be allowed to build a civilian nuclear energy program by using enriched uranium from Russia. Bush did briefly mention the vote. "I said we were sincere in our expression of concern about the elections," he told the media on Tuesday.

He could have added disappointment, even bewilderment, by how a relationship that once seemed so promising has sunk to the water it's been since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Things are so ugly that the Pentagon recently scaled back plans to reduce U.S. troops in Europe, citing as one of the reasons a "resurgent" Russia. And Bush could have added that, frankly, Washington feels powerless to do much about Russia, no longer economically powerful, it purged up in prodders and facilities nurtured from former power. Putin is doing things in his own way, and at the Washington can respectably sit at Bush's side, "directly" - despite.

To meet Russia - the New China, Delfide,

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strongly opposed, a player to be isolated within and one over which Washington has little leverage. "In some ways we have to get used to a Russia that, like China, is a big complex country with its own interests and a unwilling to bend to outside pressures, particularly to change its domestic policies," says Mark Medved, a former Bush adviser to the Clinton White House and now with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Still, the U.S. and other Western countries should not shy away from discussing Russia for failing to meet democratic standards."

THE U.S. AND RUSSIA ARE TWO NATIONS REALIZING THEY HAVE LESS POWER THAN THEY IMAGINED

In the days leading up to the Dec. 2 elections, the Bush administration did criticize Putin's domestic policies, but took a break to praise him for his foreign master's "great vision" after his Middle East summit to host a follow-up meeting in Moscow. U.S. officials were also balancing their democracy lectures with efforts to sweet-talk Russia into staying in a European treaty on conventional forces, under which countries alert each other of internal troop movements and promise not to build up forces on their borders. The U.S. went as far as asking the Putin states to consider joining the agreement—because Russia wanted them to (Putin's work, Moscow is depending on participation).

"I do wish to help this anti-American rhetoric has become a staple of Russian politics. It found some of its statements made by Mr. Putin and his party about the United States over the last few months to be unhelpful, as some cases almost shocking," says James Collins, a former diplomat who served several tours in Moscow, including as Bill Clinton's ambassador from 1997 to 2000. "In 2001, Mr. Putin came here and said America is not an enemy. And suddenly we're reversing that in some statements. And I found it disturbing that he chose to attack his opponents by questioning their patriotism and saying they are working for the U.S. to destroy Russia."

Both administration officials have been careful not to take the bait and they've been correct to do so, says Leon Aron, director of Russia studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank in Washington. He says the Russian rhetoric is for domestic consumption. "This is not an idea logically based global confrontation," Aron says. "Unlike the old Soviet Union, Russia's foreign policy does not have a messianic eschatological struggle to the better end with capitalism. It is not will be certainly a rather better case position for years to come." And there isn't much to be gained from being bashed as a cynical traitor. "There is very little we can do," Aron says. "We should not react to provocations, because it will play

into the hands of those pursuing a more authoritarian route for Russia."

How did we get here? Russia has a laundry list of grievances about its treatment by the U.S. since the end of the Cold War—from the expansion of NATO to include the Baltic states, to the Bush administration's unilateral withdrawal from the anti-ballistic missile treaty and its plans to build a missile shield in Alaska's backyard, to Washington's independent policies regarding Iraq and Iran wars.

empton will continue to lecture Putin on democracy, and he will continue to denigrate anti-Americanism. But unless he crosses a line, such as invading former Soviet republic or cutting off gas to the West, he won't face any drastic moves—just as Russia's removal from the G8. Instead, Washington will continue to try to work together with Moscow, finding common ground on weapons non-proliferation and securing the stockpile of "loose nukes."

There were hopeful signs, such as when Dec. 10 U.S.-Russia meeting in Moscow on arms. The atmosphere was chilly and there were no breakthroughs, but the Russians agreed to meet again in the U.S. within six months.



PUTIN SUPPORTERS celebrate victory. Healy photo, but the it is a sign of go-ahead.

little regard for Russian views. All that has been seen as threatening and leading to a nation that was once a superpower.

But Collins says another and more profound change play two unexamined nations grappling with each other just as they realize they neither has power than they imagined. "Russia woke up one day and they realize they are not a superpower," he says. "The creation of the end of Soviet rule for the Russian people and the replacement by something yet to be defined is an ongoing story." As for Aron says, "We wake up after 9/11 realizing we are part of the vulnerable world, and that we are not all this power but we can't make things happen the way we want."

What this means in practice is that Wash-

ington is concerned. "We have been talking much about each other and not enough to each other," he says. "But new momentum in the air. The possibility that the U.S. could recognize an independent Kosovo if that region breaks away from Russia-backed Serbia could set off a revolution. And then there is the huge question mark surrounding Putin's political future. Would Washington simply accept an attempt to rewrite Russia's constitution?"

It may not have a choice. Such moves, says Medved, "are not really ones to accept or reject. We don't have a vote in the Russian political process, and they don't have one ours. This may be disappointing—but we should get used to it."

TENNESSEE: METERS FOR HOMELESS LOSE HOMES

Charlottesville (UPI)—"Homeless meters" on sidewalks are a bit like relative performance. Pedestrians were encouraged to get involved in the meters (kind of like performance) again. Funds would be given to homeless relief groups, but recently someone stole two of the meters. Commenting on both the crime and the program's prospects, the mayor noted: "I doubt if they got much money. It might be a trophy someone is making a lamp out of."



Family Celebrations

The holidays are a magical time of year when friends and family reconnect to share stories, gifts and great food. Greet your guests with the **Ritz Entertaining Selections** cracker collection—flavorful **Butterscotch**, **Hearty Wheat** and **Savory Seeds** are perfect for all the season's favorite toppers. Make your festive entertaining simply delicious for kids and adults alike.

SLT BITES

Prep time 35 min
Serve size 12 per batch
Yield 15 grape tomatoes in half and place on a lightly oiled baking sheet
Bake in preheated 300°F (300°C) oven until evenly around edges, 45 to 60 min
Cook 5 slices of bacon until crispy, then break into pieces
Spread 8 oz (250-g) container Philadelphia Cream Cheese over Ritz Entertaining Selections Butterscotch crackers
Press in 1 or 2 baby spinach leaves and top with bacon and tomatoes
TIP: To speed up prep, bake tomatoes ahead and refrigerate up to 3 days or microwave the bacon

NACHO CRUNCH

Prep time 20 min
Serve 1 cup (250 mL) of chunky salsa with 1 cup (250 mL) cream cheese, beans, cheese and meat
Top Ritz Entertaining Selections Savory Seeds crackers with a slice of pepper Monterey Jack cheese
Spoon salsa over top and garnish with sliced avocado

TIP: To keep crackers crunchy, assemble your hors d'oeuvres just before serving

Each recipe makes 25 to 30 appetizers



Set the scene

- Wrap up a few empty bowls of various sizes in foil or an attractive cellophane case
- Add from the two packages to a container or to keep them happy while not by placing them by the crockpot and top the crockpot
- Add a holiday touch to every corner of the room with items like the garden - seasonal centerpiece, table and centerpiece, and a festive tablecloth and napkins
- When you think anyone is a good time to enjoy a wonderful New Year's celebration, get everyone to the party and start some fun games with your staff

GREEK GOODNESS

Prep time 15 min
Serve 1/2 cup (125 mL) of store-bought hummus with 1 tsp (5 mL) olive oil and lemon juice
Spread over Ritz Entertaining Selections Hearty Wheat crackers
Top with grated carrot, crumbled feta and a sprig of oregano

TIP: Switch up dips and try seasoned red pepper or creamy artichoke

PESTO POPPERS

Prep time 10 min
Serve 8 oz (250-g) container Philadelphia Cream Cheese with 1/4 cup (50 mL) pesto
Spread over Ritz Entertaining Selections Butterscotch crackers
Top with thin slices of roasted red peppers

TIP: Buy store-bought pesto, found in the refrigerated section of most grocery stores



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word for it — their families love them for serving it too! So if you want your family to love you, start their day off right. Start it with lard.



Nazi death camp secrets revealed

BY PATRICIA TREMBLE • More than 60 years after the Holocaust, a vast collection of Nazi documents was finally unlocked last week. Stored in former SS barracks in the German town of Bad Ausbach, they are detailed, meticulous records of human from 1939 to 1945, ranging from lists of Jews deported to concentration camps to medical experiment documents and even insurance policies taken out by the Germans from that used convicted victims.

The archives, which are run by an arm of the International Committee of the Red Cross, were established by the Allies to find missing persons and aid in compensation claims by Nazi victims. The repository, which has records on 17.5 million people persecuted by the Germans, is a mass of shelves and cabinets stretching for more than 25 km. In part because of privacy concerns, few outsiders were allowed inside the archives, and only minimal information was released to survivors and their immediate families. But in 2004, after years of pressure from survivors and researchers who wanted to search and look at the records for themselves, the U.S. team that governs the collection agreed to digitize the documents and allow the public to view them. Last week, Geneva was the last of the governments to file its permission.

While historians didn't expect the documents to offer basic knowledge of the Holocaust, the papers can't help but deepen our understanding. The Associated Press allowed rare access to the archives at Bad Ausbach recently, dove into records of Holocaust death marches. Along with the signed note by Gustav Philip Heinrich Himmler ordering Dachau emptied—"No prisoner must be allowed to fall into the hands of the enemy alive," as the Germans remained near the end of the war, and maps of the various routes as well as first-person accounts of SS atrocities, was a direct reminder of the very real human cost—a peaceful death certificate on a piece of lined paper for Otto S., Dachau prisoner No. 365,320, who died on a march in Wolfshausen.



THE ARCHIVES has records on 17.5 million victims

Maybe he didn't like the ring tone

BY NANCY MACDONALD • An unprecedented fit of people has cost a U.S. judge his judicial career. Last week, New York state's commission on judicial conduct recommended the removal of Niagara Falls, N.Y., city court Judge Robert M. Brenneke, who killed 46 people after a cell phone went off in his courtroom and became confused and shot his response. The 70-member panel said Judge Brenneke "became a petty tyrant," acting "without any semblance of a level head" in the March 2004 incident.

The 46-year-old judge was presiding over a case of domestic violence cases when the phone disturbed the morning proceedings. Brenneke, an 11-year veteran of the court, ordered the owner of the ringing phone to identify himself. When no one came forward, the city judge snapped, "Everyone is going to jail—every single person is going to jail in this courtroom unless I get that instrument now," he said. "If anybody believes I'm kidding, sit some of the folks that have been here for a while. You are all going." True to his word, Brenneke imprisoned 46 members of the audience, reportedly admonishing the "infinite" persons who refused to take responsibility for the phone.

"This is not far in the past of us," one defendant told the judge, who replied, "I know that." Another complained, "This isn't right." The judge responded: "This is right, it isn't right. And it's right at all." At one point, Justice Brenneke even jumped from the bench to put down a man wearing a black trench coat, hoping to find the phone.

Though most passed the 31,300 bail, 14 people did not. They were handcuffed, shackled, and shipped to the nearby Niagara County Jail. The judge did not order their release until 5 p.m.—after his colleagues from local media—allowing them to languish in prison for over an hour. Brenneke, a former police officer who blames "stress in his personal life" for his behavior, will appeal the ruling. The owner of the ringing phone was never identified.

Has the U.S. struck a deal with Iran?



A REPORT says Tehran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003

BY MICHAEL PEYRON • A new American intelligence report says Iran halted its nuclear weapons program four years ago but virtually dismissed the chance that the U.S. will bomb Iran in the immediate future—and it may herald a warming trend in relations between the two nations. A detailed summary of a National Intelligence Estimate on Iran—which reflects the judgments of all 16 U.S. intelligence agencies—says "with high confidence" that Iran stopped its nuclear weapons program in 2003 "in response to international pressure," which "suggests Iran may be more vulnerable to confidence than we judged previously." This report contradicts the 2002 intelligence estimate on Iran, which claimed, also with "high confidence," that Tehran was actively seeking nuclear weapons.

George W. Bush said on Tuesday that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's statements are wrong. But the new report unequivocally endorses his rhetoric, and suggests arguments in favour of pre-emptive military action. In fact, according to Stratfor, a private global intelligence agency with a strong track record, it would not have been released without Bush's approval. That it has been, the agency says, indicates that Iran and the U.S. have seriously struck a deal over Iran—whom Iran backs militarily hostile to the U.S.—or are close to one. "The full details of any deal are unlikely to be made public any time soon because the U.S. and Iranian politics probably are not ready to consider such either as anything out of the box," Stratfor reports, but adds that the agreement will likely allow for permanent deployment of U.S. forces in Iraq, though not at a level that would make an invasion of Iran from Iraq feasible. "With the nuclear issue out of the way, the heavy lifting has already been done," the agency concludes. "All that remains is working out the 'details.'" ■



AN OUTBURST over a ringing cellphone costs a judge his job

CBC: THE BANK THAT WOULDN'T GROW

Gerry McCaughey was hired to fix a mess. But can he learn to be bold?

BY JASON KIRBY • For as long as his primary job over the past five years has been to put along a morning litany of bad news to invest on, Gerry McCaughey is a surprisingly popular person on Bay Street. Since taking over as CEO of CBC bank in 2005, he's paid out billions to settle a lawsuit, shocked shareholders with a string of wiretaps related to the current U.S. credit crunch, and persuaded the CBC's Wall Street investment bank at a substantial loss. But all this is forgiven—simply the cost of dismantling the legacy of an outback king predecessor, John Hurdin, whose expansion came paid no award earlier this decade, and left investors more than ready for an unassuming man like McCaughey to lead the way.

All told, the bank has written off \$5.4 billion since 2001, to concrete itself from bad investments. Many analysts surmising the deepening crisis in the U.S. subprime mortgage sector suspect CBC will have to shed billions more before the matter is fully resolved. What's left is a bank that has slipped to last place among Canada's big five in terms of market value, a bank with few really exciting growth prospects and no clear direction. All of which points to deeper questions about what will have to be asked, starting this week, when CBC announces what so widely expected to be below-par earnings at year's end.

McCaughey's suggestive therapy began CBC for a brighter future, or realizing it is a shadow of its former self—neither of it can come without the disease? Investors love it when you do big cost cuts, but they're sophisticated enough to know you can only be the cost-cutter for a year or two until you have to do something else," says Chief Loder, analyst with Veritas Investment Research in Toronto. "Once this period of crisis ends, people are going to ask, 'what's next?'"

There's no question the bank needed whittling-edge change. For years CBC has plunged headlong into ventures that promised easy riches at the expense of long-term stability. Whenever there was a bubble about to burst,

you could bet CBC would be right at the center of it. The credit crunch in the United States is just one recent example. Subprime mortgages to homeowners with poor credit are among the bank's investment portfolio like overvalued bonds. Some reports have pegged CBC's total exposure to the sector at \$10 billion, of which 50 percent could be worthless. CBC is expected to shed more light on the situation this week, when it reports its latest quarterly results.

For his part, McCaughey has government turned to delivering this kind of bad news with expert efficiency. When CBC's board of directors tapped him to take the helm in August 2005, they did so largely because he was the humble manager of Hurdin's old corporate buddies, the analysts of his past protégé Hurdin had already written off several failed investments, including Aeroco, CBC's electronic banking operation. Tired with dealing up the rest of the problems, McCaughey began writing on the company's corporate calendar. He promptly started a lawsuit launched by Hurdin's investors for \$1.8 billion over CBC's alleged involvement in the scandal, even though Hurdin's old banks facing similar issues had not, and may never pay a penny. And he's used hundreds of job while writing off the value of dead investments in the subprime debacle. The total hit to CBC since McCaughey took charge: \$3.5 billion.

Adopting a more conservative stance, the bank's fall over the years has sprung from CBC's investment banking operation Wall Street-Hurdin's baby and the bank's most prominent focus onto the world stage. Last month, McCaughey pulled the plug and sold the unit, along with 700 staff, to Oppenheimer Holdings in return for a stake in the brokerage. Even though U.S. investment banking can afford little to the bank's bottom line, cutting it loose was a powerful symbolic break from CBC's aggressive but troubled past. Despite McCaughey's personal popularity, however, the market has been cool toward the beleaguered CBC, and the bank's shares have failed to keep pace with rivals this year. The bank has refocused on the basics of retail banking, where profits are strong and predictable, and some investors think McCaughey

ought to get more credit for his leadership. "At what point is the board going to give the credit for having a role sold itself back into a sale and a competent fund manager?" They're doing the kind of deal that I don't think it's a pass job," says a bank analyst.

That's the way it goes that faces every troubled business eventually, when a company blows its brains



AFTER Hurdin (above), investors welcomed McCaughey's (right) new style.

out on the eye-eyed victims, and then bring in a stock like what you set things right. At what point does discipline begin to look like discipline? When does a cleanup become a demolition? Take, for example, Michael Salts, who took over BCE in 2002 after a stock exchange plan failed apart. Even though he was head of retail banking, investors were never sure where BCE's future growth would come from. The stock languished until Salts sold off the company. But as long as Ottawa province's bank mergers, even



ONCE THIS PERIOD OF CRISIS ENDS, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO ASK 'WHAT'S NEXT?'



that governments end or else no escape route for CBC's cautious management. The good news for McCaughey is there's still more that can be done to fix up the bank's investment and multiple points to the company's efficiency ratio, a measure of how much it pays out in expenses for every dollar of revenue earned. At 61.1 per cent, CBC is at least with Bank of Montreal as the least efficient of the big five banks. Under McCaughey that figure has been improving, and there are clearly further savings to be wrung from the bank's expenses. "You don't have to be big to be efficient," notes a fund manager. But even modest cost savings will need to be squared with the growth of the bank's assets, "Where will the growth come from?"

If McCaughey has an answer to that question, he's not saying much. After CBC held out of U.S. investment banking last month, analysts on a conference call pressed the CEO to tell them what CBC would do with the money it's going to save. He answered them that there are plans to reinvest that capital in the business, especially in technology, but now is not the time for such talk, he said.

That has left analysts to speculate on the future. "They don't really have any choice but to focus on retail banking and wealth management," says Loder. "Other banks have more options about where to invest." There's good reason to be made in serving retail banking customers and, as a first step, CBC has said it will open a handful of branches in London. Meanwhile, analysts say CBC could do more to float its retail funds to its banking customers. Finally, if regulators ever allow Canadian banks to sell insurance through their branches, CBC could benefit. But, as Loder points out, the Canadian banking sector is too crowded. "There just isn't big growth to be had in home. Having new ones really walked away from Wall Street, the bank has very few savings avenues to pursue."

Some wonder whether McCaughey might make a bold move and buy his way into America's retail banking sector, as the Canadian market does. With the U.S. economy falling into the doldrums and smaller banks struggling to cope with the credit crunch, it could be a perfect time to snap up a regional player on the cheap when the risk of the market is paralyzed with fear. TD, for one, has taken that tack. In October it said it would

buy New Jersey-based Commerce Bank for \$5.6 billion. But for CBC, with no existing presence to build on, that transaction will come with a huge price tag and would probably make shareholders even more skeptical.

Perhaps that's why so far McCaughey hasn't shown much desire to pull the trigger on acquisitions, even seemingly safe ones. In October, CBC passed up the chance to buy RBC's small Group, a Canadian bank based in Toronto and Toronto. Analysts say it would have made a perfect fit for CBC, which already owns BankSouth-based BancArthur in Toronto. Bank South, owned by Royal Bank, merged in with a \$1.5-billion offer, so become one of the largest players in the region. It still isn't clear why McCaughey failed to take the deal. But when the deal sinks, and expectations rise for CBC to have its growth strategy, it may look back on it as a missed opportunity. As Daniel Scornier, analyst with Axiom, wrote in a report last month, "Outside of First Canadian, CBC does not have any obvious high growth avenues for the mid-to-long-term."

To be sure, CBC isn't the only bank to see its international endeavors go bad. A few years ago Bank of Nova Scotia saw its operations in Argentina collapse after that country's economy nosedived. Scotia bank took a \$500 million hit, and more than a few analysts warned that CEO Peter Gosselin to rethink the bank's international strategy. Instead, Gosselin stuck to Scotia's roots and to its investment and foreign debt. It's become the second-largest bank in Canada, after RBC. In a couple of years, when U.S. markets have improved, investors may wonder why CBC didn't just do it. It was the worst return, rather than built in it. It was slow growth strategy, but a strategy now defunct. At this point, though, CBC investors are still wary of anything that smells of risk. They had enough of that under Hurdin, think you very much do not want to come out and demand McCaughey lay out a bold plan for the future. And he usually follows through on it. "If they put their existing businesses right, that will lead to better strategic focus in the future," says a fund manager with a stable stake in the company, who asked not to be identified. "But for now, it's baby steps."

That is, until investors change their minds, and begin to wonder whether they'd ever been a man by taking baby steps. ■



NEWSPAPER RUNS BOK AD FOR DRUNKS
The editor of a Maryland newspaper has a special offer for anyone drinking or driving drunk this holiday season. Ken Townsend, whose newspaper published in a drunk drive in 1975, regularly publishes in 20. After's Sunday the name of its drivers connected with alcohol fatalities. This year, he's offering a free coffee to the first person to tell him while driving drunk. "You need a drink?" Roadpool said. "We're gonna make it a newspaper for you."

Biofuel giants feeling the urge to merge

BY STEVE MAZUR • At some point in every market boom comes the coast of merger mania. It happened when the dot-com started reaping overpriced chaos, forming latest-latest ideas that soon collapsed. And now, the same strange dance seems to be unfolding at the green energy industries.

Last week, South Dakota-based ethanol producer Verden Energy Corp. acquired U.S. BioEnergy Corp. for US\$700 million in stock, creating the world's largest oilseed ethanol producer of fuels made from corn rather than oil. The companies presented it as a bold statement of confidence in the future, but some analysts wondered whether the deal is another sign of ethanol's fading lustre.

At its last hot bid, politicians and market makers were cheering ethanol as a miracle solution to North America's oil addiction, with fewer emissions of greenhouse gases, and abundant supply of energy. The sudden euphoria around so-called "biofuels" produced these key results in 2006: ethanol prices soared, so did investment into export new processing facilities, and so did the price of corn, used to make the fuel.

This year, however, farmers who rely on corn for feed (and food) and local corn prices have been hit hard by shortages. At the same time, a surge in new production has driven the price of ethanol sharply lower. Firms like Verden, that were counting a profit of more than US\$1.1 per gallon last year, are now making about US\$0.25 cents. Environmental worries have emerged too, especially regarding the impact of expanded ethanol demand on water and food supplies.

It's against the backdrop that Verden's sale is big move. It paid the equivalent of US\$81.65 per gallon of production for US\$8. That's 25 per cent less than it paid in another major takeover just a few months ago, and many analysts wonder if even that was too rich, considering that Verden's stock price has been dropped by more than half this year. But the bigger question for a company that plans to churn out 1.6 billion gallons of ethanol next year is whether the business of producing fuel from food crops has a future at all. ■

The perfect car for a trip to Mecca

BY CAMERON AINSWORTH VINCE • Last year it was the iPhone, a leather cellphone designed for ultra-Orthodox Jews that blocks more than 10,000 phone app numbers, has no Internet access, and is approved by Israel's religious authorities. Now, straight from the heavens, comes the next great religious product: the Muslim car.



PROTON is betting that a car for Muslims will be its salvation.

Malaysian carmaker Proton recently announced that it plans to start up with manufacturers in Iran and Turkey to build a vehicle specifically designed for the planet's 1.6 billion Muslims. The car will be built with a compass that points towards Mecca and compartments for storing the Quran and head scarves. "The car will have all the Islamic features and should be meant for export purposes," Proton's managing director at Malayasia Auto agency Bensana. He also added that with government support, producers could supply a large number of autos.

If all this sounds like a religious marketing ploy, that's because it is. Proton is looking for some direct intervention to save itself from impending financial ruin. Although it remains a major car brand on the streets of Kuala Lumpur, its domestic market share has plummeted to 10 per cent from 40 per cent to 25 per cent in the five years since the government eased restrictions on imported vehicles. It lost 10,000 annual sales of 100,000 cars in the first quarter of this year alone, and as a result, the company expects only about 10,000 cars, most of which end up in tiny markets like Brunei and Nepal.

But even Proton struggles to attract a respectable manufacturing partner, it now remains the owner of getting others to buy it. In one large Muslim country, such as Indonesia, ownership is rare—well less than 300 cars per 1,000 people. Proton really wants to start paying. The car will point the way. ■

Wireless giants girding for a fight

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • By this time next year, Canadian wireless phone customers may find that their favorite service has taken on a distinctly European flavor.

In the little more than 24 hours after the federal government said it was throwing open the doors to new wireless competition, the major contenders began stepping forward. Little-known Bell Communications and a giant Quebecor Inc. were two of the first to throw their hats into the ring for the May auction, at which the federal government will lease new wireless spectrum—the airwaves over which wireless phones run their business. And it's likely that just about every telecom and cable corp in Canada will spend the coming months looking long and hard at the potential for a new competitor to succeed. "The everyone is lining up shows how uncompetitive the market was," says Arat Karmali, an analyst with the Securities Group.



EUROPE has seen cutthroat competition for subscriptions.

The change in the wireless industry will do more than simply add some competing players to compete with Rogers Communications, BCE and Telus. Successful new entrants will offer entirely new strategies and business models that may sway how coupon contracts and how that customers have long complained of, says Ramon Hoag, head of the consulting firm EY Associates.

But, for now, he said that it plans to be "the best no-strings, no-government wireless provider in Canada." And although wireless industry insiders are somewhat doubtful about Talkusoft, the company's plan in a sign of what's to come. New competitors will likely take Canada down the path being followed by European and U.S. companies, which have been moving away from closed networks and locked phones that chain customers to one carrier, says Karmali. Anytime you try to compete to use such the big players, while offering nothing new, will be "dead in the water," says Hoag. Changes will happen overnight. But customers have been demanding change, and now they're going to get it. ■



IN WASHINGTON poor couples can get up to US\$1,000 in matched savings from the government. The catch is, they must marry first.

WE PAY CASH FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR

New programs pay people to lose weight, wed, take their kid to the doctor. Do they work?

BY DAFNA TIEBERBERG • Anecdotal James Anderson was married on Feb. 23, 2007 in Arlington, Va. three years after the moment after—well, kind of. They'd been together on and off for 11 years, cancelled a wedding a year and a half later, and reconciled only recently. When James suggested getting married on the anniversary of the day they first met, Anderson knew her role. "I was thinking he was joking," she recalls with a laugh. But that morning, he woke her up along with 19-year-old Tykara (Anderson's son from a previous relationship) and 10-year-old Sam, and carried the whole family off to a justice of the peace. Seven months later, Anderson is enjoying married life. "Our circumstances are a lot better now," she says.

So is their health. In the fall of 2006, the Andersons started attending a marriage course that one of Anderson's brothers had told her about. Together with several other African American spouses, they talked about everything from money management to "hot microwaves" and learned some useful techniques for resolving conflict. They also had fun out about a new program for low-income Washington couples, in which the government would match every dollar they saved with three more, up to a maximum

of US\$1,000. The conditions: they had to put away at least \$50 a month and take eight hours of financial counseling, and could only use the money to buy a home, start a business, or enroll in an educational program. The checker was, in order to collect the matched savings, they had to be married. James and Anderson opened a "marriage development account" in December, just a few months before their wedding day.

It may seem a peculiar variation on the theory, or just a ploy and simple bribe. In fact, it's a "conditional cash transfer," a program that has been shown to be effective in reducing poverty, in other words, a rewards system. For the past decade, Latin American governments have been experimenting with CCTs as a way to promote education and nutrition among the poor, and NGOs have adapted them in countries like Afghanistan, where the World Food Programme runs a course of cooking of home with girls whose families allow them to go to school. There are even programs aimed at professionals—in Kenya, married parents have been offered to teach in preschools whose students performed well.

But lately, more and more CCTs have been cropping up in Western countries. Last summer, an Italian mayor promised 175 to 200 people to lose their kilograms, and another \$150 if they kept the weight off after five months. In September, the U.K. government announced that, beginning in 2008, all preg-

nant women, regardless of income, will be given \$150 if they abstain from smoking and drinking and agree to receive professional advice on nutrition. And since 2005, the Canadian federal government has been testing a program called Incentive, similar to the one in Washington, that matches money saved by low-income earners provided they only use the funds for education, training or a small business start-up.

But nowhere is the CCT model being embraced with more gusto than in New York City. Mayor Michael Bloomberg is currently in the midst of rolling out Opportunity NYC, a three-pronged plan with a family-focused component that pays low-income parents for things like attending parent-teacher conferences and maintaining health insurance. There are also several rewards for children's achievement in school, some of which will be delivered directly to children. Bloomberg has even issued orders giving kids cell phones with cameras in exchange for good marks. "For all of us, the secret of our daily lives can

BLOOMBERG HAS TALKED OF GIVING CELLPHONES TO KIDS IN EXCHANGE FOR GOOD GRADES

change into real decisions that need always in our best interests," he said last June, when the incentive scheme was released. "Living in poverty makes it even more difficult."

Rewarding good behaviour is best known as a parenting strategy for managing tricky ones—problems with toilet training, sibling rivalry, kids refusing to go to bed. It isn't much of a leap, then, when critics argue that incentive programs like Bloomberg's promote, even if indirectly, the disadvantaged. That's a point raised by nearly every political speech since on Nicole Gillies, writing for New York's conservative City Journal, described Bloomberg's initiative as "a bribe to get a few kids to do right" in an assumption that poor people don't already, for example, have



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NYC's plan gives cash rewards each time a low-income parent takes her kid to the doctor.

Money cards (for which there is a \$50 incentive). "Paying people not to do something bad is simply terrible government policy," she argues. "Where does it stop? Will we start paying young men between the ages of 15 and 22 not to carry illegal guns?"

Meanwhile, Marjy Wilson, from the left-leaning think tank Institute on Washington, says presenting Opportunity NYC as a possible solution to poverty reinforces a public belief that people are poor because they've made poor choices. Speaking more broadly, Atlanta Monthly blogger Megan McFalls, a self-described "infliction liberalist," says defining "good behaviour" is no business of any government. Poor people, like all people, she writes, should be free to make mistakes. "If they want to eat cornmeal mush for a month while watching cable television, let 'em."

Incentive programs were originally developed largely as a fail to what many consider the ultimate anti-poverty welfare: In the late '60s, policy makers woke up to the real-

ity in southern New Jersey and in C.V. Starr Manhattan from 1942 to 1999, 597 disabled the earnings of single parents who stopped seeking welfare to take full-time, maximum-wage jobs. Families received the supplement for three years; they were tasked for another three years. "The thing that SSP did very well was to solve paradoxes," says Jean-Pierre Veyre, executive director of the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation, which evaluated the program. That was the paradox of how to give poor people money while also encouraging them to work.

Around that time, Mexico began experimenting with a different sort of unconditional program, whose goals included making babies bigger. Due to poor prenatal nutrition, infants in the country's rural reaches are often born stunted; many are never vaccinated or seen for routine check-ups. So the government introduced Progresa (now called Opportunidades), a program that tied rewards not to employment but to what might be called good parenting. It gave mothers money for bringing newborns to the doctor and funding their fortified supplements. It gave families "schooling" money if they sent their kids to school instead of to work on the fields. And it built in a requirement for ongoing, rigorous evaluation. Ten years later, it reports higher school enrollment and bigger—or longer, by about 1.5 cm—babies.

Now, the U.S. is earning tough for lessons in poverty alleviation. Bloomberg visited Mexico City last spring, announcing the New York program would be modelled on (not to mention named for) Opportunidades—with some critical differences. The US\$11 million funding Bloomberg's program is a private money, generating serious questions about sustainability. Opportunity NYC's goals are somewhat more vague than Mexico's, with a free-floating target of poverty, and incentives that are to boost education, health and

'WHERE DOES IT STOP? WILL WE START PAYING YOUNG MEN TO STOP CARRYING ILLEGAL GUNS?'

ty that most welfare, as delivered in North America, was additive, offering a better standard of living than many low-wage jobs. "There was a real sense that we had thought about welfare incorrectly," says Gordon Lakin, president of MDRC, the New York-based social policy research organization that is evaluating Bloomberg's initiative. "That I had mostly been about supporting people when they didn't work, and maybe it should be about supporting them when they did."

So in the early '90s, both Canada and the U.S. started testing wage supplement programs, nudging people off welfare and into low-paying jobs by topping up their income. Canada's Self-Sufficiency Project is widely considered the most dramatic of these experiments. "Noted



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BLOOMBERG'S PLAN was inspired by a Mexican program; Democrat Holmes-Morales also favours incentives

workforce participation. Bloomberg is calling the program "paid serving," meaning it helps you look good. "If anybody thinks that poverty doesn't affect them, they are making a very bad mistake," he said when he first announced the program last March. "This is something everybody is to get a taste of."

Incentive programs seem to breed the least likely union. The Washington state wage initiative, for example, was the brain child of Republican Sen. Brewbacker, whom *Rolling Stone* has called "God's rentier." With high-profile politicians against abortion and gay marriage, Brewbacker appears the natural fit of someone like Eleanor Holmes-Norton, the Democratic congresswoman for Washington. "He's as conservative as an armadillo," she agrees. And yet, when he approached her to support his proposed for-fee-for-service development, Holmes-Norton says she was "at all" resistant. A strong advocate for black men and boys, Holmes-Norton is particularly alarmed by a recent statistic that 78 per cent of black children in the U.S. are born to unmarried mothers. Like Brewbacker, she wants kids to grow up with two parents, and she also doesn't believe incentives "make" people money, she suggests they can make the poor part of contributing to family life somewhat less financially daunting for people who are on the fence, by helping them buy books, for example.

Berlin similarly thinks Bloomberg's plan is less about trying to get people to behave well than it is about clearing the way for them to do things they already want to do. For instance, the program pays \$250 per family member for annual medical checkups, and \$100 each for doctor-recommended follow-up visits. This would go a long way, says Berlin, to offset money loss by people whose jobs don't pay for sick leave or medical appointment fees. "The important thing is to step back from ideological debates," says Berlin. "It's not about whether it works."

On this count, predictions are mixed. Economist Gary Barden of the Brookings Institution thinks that such incentives can only truly overcome generational poverty in situations of extreme deprivation in the U.S., he says, "children are closely guarded, if their parents have no gunpoint at all, and real levels of nutrition, access to the health care system, and education system, which, while it may not be great, is certainly far better than what is available in rural Mexico." He isn't buying the argument that parents must donate their appointments as meetings at kids' schools because they don't want to leave a day's pay, many of them aren't working. "They don't see what the benefit is, or they just have something they would rather be doing," he says. He's not convinced a \$300 reward will change that, though it might if the money came first enough. "We're running experiments," says BSA's Vogel, "and found there are many people who value \$300 more than \$1,000 in one week."

But Berlin says even if it does work, it doesn't

CRITICS ARGUE IT'S INFANTILIZING. POOR PEOPLE, LIKE ALL PEOPLE, ARE FREE TO MAKE MISTAKES.

berly program ultimately does more harm than good. For starters, she thinks the idea of "rewarding" the bourgeoisie. "One in three jobs in this country pays low wages and provides no benefits," she says. "The 'would come' has the most important problem to address."

And despite solving this problem—prevention allowing all workers, including con-

tracted employees, to have paid time off in the event of an emergency—the idea that poor people behave better. "Voters and taxpayers are reluctant to ask the government to get involved," she argues, "if they believe people would be just fine if they would only change some particular behaviour, or would have made a better choice some time in the past."

By early this month, the family-focused component of Opportunity NYC was nearly full, with 4,500 out of 5,000 participants registered (half of whom are in a control group that gets no aid). Each family showed up to open a free bank account, done for "good behaviour payments" are being deposited this month. After that, the payments will come every two months. In the course of one year, families in the study group could theoretically save as much as \$5,000 (if they meet all requirements)—nothing to sneeze at. At program orientations, says Berlin, there is a common sense of optimism. "They know they have to do this," she says. "They think they're doing these things now, but they're not sure."

In Washington, after almost two years, five couples have closed their marriage development accounts and purchased their own homes. Another 41 are still living. Only two are engaged, the rest slowly married—America and Japan among them. The program didn't play a part in their decision to wed, says Andrews, but it has made a difference in their marriage and vice versa.

Before, says Andrews, "We would be so different people. I'd be the one doing for them. He would be saving for another. Or not saving at all." And while the *Alzheimer's* initiative doesn't seem to be among the program's participants, it certainly does in their neighborhood. "My kids' friends have actually come over and said things like, 'you are cool together,'" recounts Andrews. "Married? Oh man, they are like it's a big thing. The kids like it." ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF VANDERKAM FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

The root canal of your dreams

With 'sleep dentistry,' the patient won't feel, or remember, a thing

BY NANCY MACDONALD • Just thinking about the dentist is enough to make Dana Schmidt hyperventilate. Thanks to a tiny job, an easily triggered gag reflex and an irrational fear of the drill, for most of her life Schmidt wasn't able to get dental work done without

her dental receptionist, whose chins she'd rest her face on to pass out as she sat for it. "One guy was like, *th-th-th-th*," she shivers, basically. "Another guy just couldn't stop smiling." The beauty? Those patients have little or no memory of even the most painful procedures, often an instant effect that also blurs their sense of time, making life seem like it's a breeze.

The idea of using sedatives in dentistry is hardly new, says Dr. Alex Pines, deputy



'ONE GUY WAS LIKE, "H-I-I-I-I-I," ' SHE SLURS BOOZILY. 'ANOTHER GUY JUST COULDN'T STOP SMILING.'

director with the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia, which, like every provincial licensing body in Canada, regulates training and certification for sedative dentistry. Dana has had and undergone dental work outside—aka "laughing gas"—for years, but laughing gas was used for painful procedures, not routine cleanings. And though it's a great pain reliever, it doesn't mitigate one key—the risk that phobic patients seek. Dr. Aluzer Nossel, president of the B.C. Dental

Association, who prescribes Elbilid, a conscious sedative, explains the rise of sedative dentistry to the recent rediscovery of anesthesia, better known by its trade name, Nitrous. The '60s vintage drug was banned in Britain in 1996 after reports of recovery loss in teenagers. In North America, however, dentists consider it an "ideal sedative" because it's cheap, fast, easy to use and in small doses. Across the country, more and more dentists are offering sedation. It's become "quite fashionable" over the past five years, says Nossel.

The Canadian Dental Association doesn't keep statistics on "ideal gas," but a 2007 University of Toronto study showed that 16 per cent of Canadians seek before dental work any type of pain relief such as nitrous or pre-sedation. The phobic reaction is essentially the "fight or flight" response, says Martha Caproni, a psychoanalyst with B.C.'s North Shore Stress and Anxiety Clinic. "Your heart beats faster, your blood pressure goes up, your hand starts to get cold and clammy, and you get dry mouth." Dental phobias, which Caproni says require eight to 12 sessions to kick, don't necessarily stem from past trauma. Just seeing a movie like the 1976 thriller *Marathon Man*—in which ex-Nazi dentist is played by Sir Laurence Olivier—can trigger a fear of the drill, says a

few of the ones, the trigger. Sedation dentistry is a growing market, often from health professionals who find the potential for over-education and related complications. Any type of sedation involves risk. And Nitrous has been proven to have a profound effect on memory function. Still, the grateful days of *laughing gas* are behind us. After all, for people like Schmidt, who gazed in conversation just recalling the scent of the latex gloves, the alternative is a mouth full of braces and a doctoring smile. ■



AUSTRIA: HUSBAND HOLDING PRINCE AIDS SHOPPERS

To help women shoppers overcome the fear of cancer, Austria's health authorities have given this year's autumn shopping spree a twist: husbands are now encouraged to shop with their wives. The department features computer games, copies of Playboy and a bar. Each wife is given a child's check, which they must present at the end of shopping in order to collect their husband.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF VANDERKAM FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE



CIGARETTES AND ALZHEIMER'S: NOT ALL SAYS

Nobody, repeat, nobody is suggesting you take up smoking, but a tobacco ingredient actually may have a role in treating Alzheimer's disease. A recent study has found that a cigarette under study may be an Alzheimer's cure. Nicotinic, a by-product of nicotine, could provide a protective effect, says the University of California, by altering amyloid protein, which plays a role in forming the plaques found in Alzheimer's patients' brains.

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Rockin' the radio

Bob Dylan, Randy Bachman, Alice Cooper and Little Steven are old rock stars on a new mission to save the airwaves BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

music

If it ain't rockin', the voice on the radio is what it might sound like. The basic rule has been: if it ain't rockin', it ain't on the radio.

Bob Dylan, Randy Bachman, Alice Cooper and Little Steven are old rock stars on a new mission to save the airwaves. Dylan, Bachman, Cooper and Steven are old rock stars on a new mission to save the airwaves. Dylan, Bachman, Cooper and Steven are old rock stars on a new mission to save the airwaves.

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'BOB GREW UP LISTENING TO BIG 50,000-WATT STATIONS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT'

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BOB DYLAN: JEFFREY MAYER/REUTERS

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Continuing and Distance Education Guide



Whether the goal is life-long learning, a job upgrade or a full-blown career change, more and more Canadians – and folks from around the world – are taking advantage of the comprehensive selection and on-point curricula continuing and distance education programs at Canadian institutions have to offer. Translation? If you're looking to improve your life, these places can help you figure out how to do it on your own terms – even from the comfort of your own computer screen.



As a freshman on the south shore of Newfoundland, Samuel Anderson knows taking classes waits for no man. But as a distance education student at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, he's not taking three courses a day as a priority. So when he realized that his first exam dates that would take him away from his job for two weekends (an impossible proposition during the bustling capitol fishery of June and July), he effectively had a distance-education dilemma on his hands.

He wrote the school to say that he could take one weekend off (but not two) and asked if his history exam could be moved to the same weekend as his other two courses. Instead, it could. Was the school's response "Wow, I really liked about the response for the distance course instructor of the third exam was that he changed the time of the exam for this led right away - no test, no mark," says Kelly Campbell, vice-president (academic) and pro vice-chancellor at Memorial.

It's a coming story that made its way into the university's newspaper. It's also a perfect example of the style of education that continuing and distance courses can offer: driven by you and extended by you - in your own time and on your own terms.

Indeed, continuing and distance education has never fit into the standard cookie-cutter post-secondary education model. With daily classes, seminars, chattering sounds and hot parties, it's not the standard idyllic view of education. It has always been a bit more off the grid, a vital tool for people who want to better themselves, change their lives, or just learn something.

Raymond Guy, president of the Canadian Network for Innovation in

It's not the standard idyllic view of education. It has always been a bit more off the grid, a vital tool for people who want to better themselves, change their lives, or just plain learn something.

Education (CNIE-RCIE) and professor at College Boréal in Sudbury, Ont., says that while distance and continuing education have always been part of the educational landscape, in the past it was ostracized for the use of technology and lack of human contact. "The use of technologies to overcome these barriers has probably been one of the more debated issues because of its perceived impact on the quality of education," says Guy. "Some questions asked are: Does the use of technology distance learning? Can you learn as well without being in the physical presence of a teacher?"

Perhaps the answer to these questions can be found in the fact that many of the practices evolved over the past 50 years are now being adopted as on-campus strategies, says Guy. "Most colleges and universities are now using online course management systems, mobile computing, and videoconferencing in most," he says. "All three of the traditional on-campus distance education and continuing education communities have much to gain from this collaboration and meeting of best practices in education."

As well, Susan Savits, dean of continuing education at Seneca College in Toronto, Ont., says distance and continuing education courses have always held a certain level of respect in the community and industry, but that it has been growing over time as more partnerships are made with different industries and businesses. "That's a big part of our business and it's not an always trying to grow. Those partnerships get us out into the

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business world and get us more accepted. So that's always progressing," she says.

Over the years, this form of education has embraced technology and a wide array of new possibilities has emerged to help continuing and distance education students achieve their goals and dreams online. Perhaps one of the most progressive examples of this online education revolution is the Canadian Virtual University (CVU) is a group of Canadian universities specializing in online and distance programs, universities offer over 300 degrees, diplomas or certificates and 2,900 individual courses completely online or through distance education. Last year more than 100,000 students registered in online and distance courses through the UK's 13 member universities.

Dr. Judith Pider, executive director of the College of Extended Learning at the University of New Brunswick and member of the board of directors at CVU, says continuing education plays an increasingly vital role in the economic, social and cultural

development of Canadians. "Continuous learning is a given in our knowledge driven world and although learning can be achieved through informal as well as formal means, institutionally based continuing education is a powerful mechanism for personal, organizational and community learning," she says. "Distance education technologies appropriately used can extend learning opportunities across geographical and personal boundaries and lessen barriers to learning. These rapidly evolving tools provide accessibility and flexibility to a wide variety of learning options that will only increase."

Campbell says Memorial University's Distance Education and Learning Technologies (DEL) department reports approximately 19,000 registrations annually from across the province, the country and the world, and says the success in this area is due in no small part to financial support from the provincial government. "The university has enjoyed strong support from the provincial government in recent years that

has helped us develop additional web-based courses and programs in particular. We expect that support to continue as we build on our position as a national leader in distance education," he says.

New distance programs being developed at Memorial include a Bachelor of Post-Secondary Education a Master's degree in Physical Education a Bachelor of Arts and various specialized MBAs such as Technology Maritime Studies and an EMBA in Petroleum and a Masters in Engineering Management. Under consideration are MBAs in public sector management, health systems management and regional economic development.

Virtually Everywhere

Dr. John McLaughlin, dean of the faculty of behavioural sciences at Yorkville University in Princeton, says recent advances in communication technology have been an important factor in the increase in the number and variety of educational programs offered online. "Canada is recognized as a leader in developing this technology and making high speed Internet available from coast to coast. Advances in learning management systems technology and the increased availability of online library databases allow institutions to develop and deliver a wide range of high quality online digital programs," he says.

Established in 2003, Yorkville is a private and non-denominational school specializing in private (online) graduate level academic programs. In March 2004, the Department of Education of the Province of New Brunswick granted designation status approving Yorkville University as a degree-granting institution authorized to offer a Master of Arts degree in counseling psychology. Through its Faculty of Behavioural Sciences Department of Psychology the university offers the doctoral portion of the program in an online format.

"Enrollment in online/broadcast university programs has steadily increased in recent years and this trend is expected to continue," says McLaughlin. "As a result, students in geographically isolated communities are able to enroll in undergraduate and

graduate programs without having to relocate to a larger urban centre. Today online degree programs offer a viable, cost-effective option for adults who wish to continue with their careers and at the same time advance their education."

Students take courses one at a time in a sequence that is defined for the program

in which they are enrolled. Yorkville University's blended and online degree programs for working adults are designed specifically for students with high aspirations and busy professional schedules.

Walter Lee, director of admissions at Yorkville University says although the school requires completion of an on-site program

High School - On Their Own Terms

TVO's Independent Learning Centre helps Ontarians from varying backgrounds and circumstances achieve a secondary school education.

High school for Ray Dettlo-Best wasn't his most shining moment. After five years at a secondary school in Toronto, the 21-year-old had only earned three years' worth of credits. After leaving some time away from school, and watching his friends head off to school and succeed in their chosen careers, he planned for success himself. "My friends were in university, some were doing college, and I was in high school. I wanted to get to college. I felt at the time that I was missing out. So I wanted to speed up the process and get to college as fast as I could."

So he sought out the Toronto-based Independent Learning Centre (ILC), which provides a distance education program in English and in French for Ontario residents who want to earn secondary school diploma credits, upgrade basic skills, or study for personal development.

"It made sense on the fact that we are accessible to anyone in the province who needs or chooses to go back to school," says ILC's senior information officer, Lisa Ucker.

With a renewed sense of purpose and an organization that was set on helping him achieve his goal, Dettlo-Best finished eight courses in eight months and was valedictorian of the graduating class in November.

The material is presented in a blended learning format, using paper and online resources. All courses are written by teachers and a team of instructional designers. "The material is written so that the teacher's voice is essentially embedded in the text so when you are reading, it actually feels like someone is talking to you. A lot of the students I speak with say they were surprised at how easy it was to take a course in this format, so obviously this was a better way for them to learn," says Ucker. "We have a whole suite of resources, everything from web-based interactive tutorials that are created based on problems that our students encounter while they are taking the courses, to free online tutoring."

"The teachers were great," says Dettlo-Best. "I didn't think I was going to learn as much as I did and all the resources they had such as the help lines and you could submit your essays beforehand and teachers would check them over and make suggestions to improve them."

Over the years the ILC has evolved from elementary to secondary courses as its possible to do your entire education through the ILC which is helpful for home schooled students. "We did have a 16-year-old girl who was quite bright and home schooled. She then needed her high-school education through us and was in medical school in the U.K. by the time she was 18. As well as kids who are sick and are forced out of school, this is also a great option for them," says Ucker.

Courses are an affordable \$40 each, and there's even a graduation celebration held each year (this year's event was held at The Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto) for those who successfully attained their high school diploma. For more information, go to www.ilc.org.



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Q+A: Removing Boundaries, Virtually

Involved with the Canadian Virtual University since its inception in January 2000, Denis Mayer, current chair of the board of directors of the 13 university online consortium and associate vice-president of Student Affairs at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ont., has long had a passion to make higher education as accessible as possible. And with virtual technologies getting more sophisticated every day, this mode of academic delivery seems to have a bright future. Here's what Mayer has to say about the current and future state of online education.



What do you think drove this form of education into being?
Mayer: Distance education and online learning evolved out of a pure need for information and knowledge. These people are unable to attend regular classroom instruction on a campus for various reasons: whether they be financial, family commitments or personal circumstances. What is most stimulating about distance education is that it continues to evolve, and the technological improvements open up endless opportunities for access to learning opportunities and education. My passion for this form of learning comes from the fact that it removes geographical boundaries and connects with those who otherwise would not have access to higher education. It is a way of reaching out, being more accessible and contributing to human development.

What qualities do you need to succeed in an online course environment?
Mayer: Most often, students in distance education and online courses are self-directed learners: well organized and determined. They usually have other networks that support them in their studies and have a strong motive such as a promotion, a need for a credential, a personal goal or a passion for learning, which makes them focused and committed to their studies.

What distance education success stories stand out in your mind?
Mayer: There are many success stories that are inspiring, ranging from teachers who complete their degrees through

distance education to become fully qualified to courses with college diplomas who obtain their university degrees on a part-time basis through distance education while keeping their jobs, family and community involvement going.

Some may ask how distance education is legitimate – students could get anyone to do their lessons and exams couldn't they?
Mayer: Well, one could say on-campus students have that same possibility. Anyone can purchase an essay or a lab report. But most universities have tightened this term and final exams to students must show a piece of identification at the time of writing an exam or test. For the most part, the integrity of the final mark is based on the weighted portion of the evaluation. When there is a huge discrepancy between the assignments and the weighted exams, this faculty will investigate that just like they would for on-campus students.

What do you see in the future of online education? What's the next step?
Mayer: I see the technology become more user-friendly for both faculty members and students. Communities will develop local learning and resource centres and more people will opt to stay closer to home to go to university and college. You will see a transformation of campuses into greater learning, resource and research centres. You will see more collaboration among institutions and networks to increase access to learning opportunities.

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students may complete this requirement in their own community. "The people we reach are often people who wouldn't otherwise be able to take a masters program - either because of where they live, or because they have children that they can't leave alone at night," says Lee. "The interesting thing about online education is that it breaks down barriers to education for adults who can't afford to go back to school to leave their jobs or their family responsibilities. The added bonus is that the teaching methods of a properly run online course really suit adults - it allows them to be more active participants in their own learning."

Changes for the Better

Traditionally based continuing education has definitely changed over the past decade," says Potter. "Recent research indicates that, at least within university continuing education, there is increased emphasis on professionalism, accountability and collaboration in practice. More continuing education units are involved in distance delivery and student learning."

Beside, for example, says it's the teachers in this field that are giving it a particular level of respect and professionalism. "At Service we pride ourselves on our part-time faculty excellence. We seek out people who are currently working in the industry in which we want them to teach, so they bring real life experiences that are current and up to date to the classroom, so we rely heavily on those folks and we're quite proud of them."

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Distance Education Student: Jennifer Hearn

Jennifer Hearn is hoping the third time is the charm when it comes to her career choices. With an under-graduate degree in History from Laurier University and a bachelor of education from the University of Western Ontario, Hearn has



no doubt paid her dues in the world of academia.

But after realizing that that teaching

in a high school setting was not the job for her, the 34-year-old still has a lot of passion. Now after enrolling in a Human Resources certificate program through distance education at Conestoga College in Kitchener, Ont., Hearn is working her way through the 10 online courses in the evenings and on weekends. Her goal is to blend her teaching knowledge with cutting-edge HR practices to make a difference in the learning and development department of a

government agency or corporation.

As a relative newbie to online education, Hearn has been pleasantly surprised with this mode of learning. "I was worried at first that I wouldn't have the discipline to do it on my own or would miss the interaction with the teachers and other students, but it has been great so far," says Hearn. "I'm able to e-mail the teachers at any time and they get back to me pretty immediately."

Hearn also appreciates the efforts that are made to give the courses a community feeling. "In an accounting class I'm being right now, for example, students have to complete certain readings each week and post discussion questions and you have to respond to other people's questions in order to get full marks," she says. "So you feel more a part of a class rather than just someone alone in front of a computer."



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Course Considerations

Interested in continuing or distance education?
Here's some advice from those in the know.

1. Do Your Research. When it comes to online and distance education, the world really is your oyster, so make sure you know what's out there before you sign on to a specific program. Burlington, Ont.-based Jennifer Hearn enrolled in a human resources distance program at the college that was closest to her home, by instinct. She quickly realized that since everything is done online she would could have the course from virtually any institution. "Although it's a really good program and I'm enjoying it, I think in retrospect I should have done a bit more research on what is out there and available at all schools," she says. "There are people in my [printed] class from all over Canada and the U.S., so that made me realize that I could have gone anywhere."

2. Take a Visit. Before committing to a continuing education course on a college or university campus, it's always important to get a feel for the school and the program before diving in. Attend an open house or information night so you can get a feel for the place you'll be spending time at, says Richmond Hill, Ont.-based Jeff Wilson who is a graduate of - and currently teaching at - Seneca College in Toronto, Ont. "Back when I was trying to figure out what program to get into, there happened to be an information night at Seneca, so I went," he says. "I spoke with some teachers from the Home Inspection program and by the end of the evening I really knew that I had found the right program and the right school for me."

3. Test Your Full-Time Interest. If you are thinking of going into a full-time program but don't have the time or funds to do so right now, investigate whether your program of choice offers some option in distance courses, says Susan Sewell, dean of continuing education at Seneca College in Toronto. "Many people are surprised to learn that many courses are virtually the same as those offered in full-time programs, so it's possible to get a head start and do some courses part-time before you are ready or have the funds to commit to full-time studies," she says.

4. Support is There, if you Need it. Be aware that continuing and distance education institutions understand that many of their students have full and sometimes very stressful lives. Once you are enrolled, there are resources you can draw on for support to help you achieve your goals. Sandra Ahmed, who is in her final year of a practical nursing diploma that she has been taking part-time at Seneca College, found out that her son had been in a very serious car accident shortly after enrolling in her college course. She contacted the school to let them know she would be dropping out, and she says the college encouraged her stay in school and provided her with counselling and lots of attention and support to get her work done and succeed. "The people at that college have picked me up and brought me back to where I am today," she says.

The Road Ahead

Continuing and distance education has a vast number of success stories to share every year, many of which are poignant, inspiring and uplifting. The number of Canadians willing to stand up to the challenge of making their lives better for themselves and their families increases each year. But Sewell says that perhaps the greatest

challenge facing continuing and distance education is getting the message out to the people in the workplace or at home who can be helped most by it. "Most post-secondary marketing and information is geared towards the typical full-time student, so sometimes continuing education options can get lost in that voice, which is unfortunate because it's applicable to so many different people."

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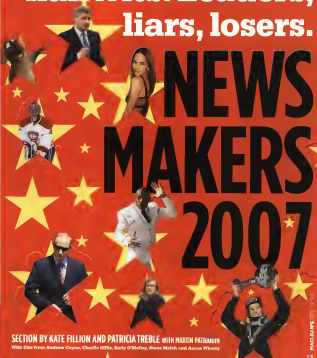
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halfwits. Leaders,
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NEWS MAKERS 2007



SECTION BY KATE FILLION AND PATRICIA TREBLE WITH MARTIN PATRIMON

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BY JOHN FRASER • It's obvious I can't get out of my mind. The fact: The money he is supposed to have stolen, is suspected of stealing—maybe as little as \$100 million. This is a man, in the form of newspaper "non-over payment," because, that Conrad Black's apparently failed to pass along to the shareholders of Hollinger International.

It's a lot of money, for sure, especially for someone like me who had three daughters at university during the period of the taking and is still trying to rebuild the family's pathetic "fortune." On another level, though, it is a mere trifle, a "punch" against Lord Black of Crossinborough himself when he was talking of the issues at *Saturday Night* magazine where I was the editor and he was the proprietor.

(During that time I had my sons to deal with too. I lost them at least \$2.5 million. In and Canadian dollars, I was assured but unpublished articles, as well as forcing up the page counts of *Saturday Night* without supporting advertising. Maybe I lost him twice that amount, or slightly less than twice that. He took it all with hardly a hint of a whim because he believed it was an important magazine with a great history. Some of the modest progress survived off a mortgage for another writer, though anyway his article didn't get published. I know for a fact that he was able to make an attorney payment just in the nick of time, for another it was a needed holiday that ended up costing a mortgage.

So there are professed loans in this small world, and even though I know Judge Amy D. Lee in Fortway Chicago will not understand the situation, in my view of the world Conrad Black balanced out his debts again. I'd even say that there was success in this world that there would come credit in the bank. To put him in prison is ridiculous, but perhaps privately the place that is looting far here. It makes so much sense to converting a man over hiberna in search of my political winging.

Treyton Jay? It has been 20 years since I began my labours in his employment at *Saturday Night* and 11 since I left. It has been just over 10 years since he moved me from a badly in the redoubtship of Upper Canada College in Toronto when I was 12, a first at which he never missed.

★ THE NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR ★ CONRAD BLACK

a hand but simply unleashed a fistful of five fistfuls of words. So accompanied was my comment that he could go on his grip and I was able to escape even before he was called a "pathetic person."

Just over 10 years ago, as the new owner of the Southern newspaper chain, he affirmed that chain's magnificent 1961 gift to the University of Toronto and Missy College and the form of the Southern journalism fellowship. But how? He wanted them and increased their value so that mid-career journalists continued to have a chance to go back to school and learn new skills without the threat of a daily deadline for eight months. Conrad understood—almost instinctively—that it was a palpably Good Thing to keep going, so he not only kept them going, he made them better.

I think of all this during the days leading up to *The New Yorker*. I think of what a good proprietor he was to *Saturday Night* during my tenure and those of my successors, and to *The Observer* magazine in England under Charles House and his successors. And as I think of those happy days, I also ponder the ordinary and quagmire he is now, for "and my" US\$2.5 million of shareholders' sums,

my old chain, long eras, it would be personally wrong.

There, I know God, do I know I have heard all the arguments and all pieces, taken in all the terrible tales of arrogance, greed, false confidence, shady dealing. All of them, so far as I am concerned, will do not add up to a proven sentence. I wrote about all this in my own letter to the judge, appearing like 100 others among his friends, for an instance of Conrad's courtesy carried through to involvement until the appeal process has been exhausted.

"I've been trying to think" and a mutual acquaintance who then went on to explain how foolish it is to have any sympathy for the Blacks and how dangerous it will be for my "career" if I don't discuss him. As Robert Halford recently observed, "The Blacks have turned academic frauds into an English word." Even Conrad admits that mistakes in Canada and England can now use his spectre to frighten little children into using their speech or financial operators. In private conversations, Barbara Aniel Black is now up there with Lucrèce Borgia and Agrippa the Younger, although no one yet has found a parallel to Karl's Hercules, but gives it time. An article in the *Toronto Star* by Susan Kauter is a kind of comprehensive attack on Van Boven's portrait in *Conrad & Lady Black* was more than halfway there. The road is hell, it seems not, is not paved with good intentions, but the things and arrows and unadmitted anecdotes of outraged journalists who the Blacks may never have met, or harmed, or offended, or even been so quoted by.

The Blacks, in Conrad's case, certainly fit in part with that self, but curiously it also fits with his stars. How many times have I heard that all along the downward slide—like he has been on over the past two years, there were not enough persons for him to care, not his losses and get on with his life? All of them he achieved an apology here, a sign to shareholders there, and everywhere



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a new face of humility, fragility, national pride and domestic estrangement. The problem is the man doesn't think he has done anything wrong, or at least not so wrong that he deserves to go to prison. And if you don't think you have done anything wrong and your name and honor are precious to you, then even misjudging the degree of venues that stand upon the reputation of your name may simply not permeate.

The tragedy here is not the absurdity of putting such a person in Conrad Black in prison. The tragedy is what has been lost, partly through Conrad's own misunderstanding of the temper of our times and partly from the damage of the new divorcing class that wrap themselves in the garb of



shareholder protection in corporate governance over vigilance. If Conrad Black has erred by doing so little to understand what he was up against and thereby effected a publishing empire, thereby also stood in the dock for deceiving that empire and co-opting any hope whatsoever for the beleaguered shareholders. For with journalist Mark Steyn on the one. There are no windows orphans complaining about their life savings having been obliterated by Conrad's alleged and notorious shallowness. There are only the friends and allies of the Twenty Twenty Co. LLC (believe whose innocent buying on behalf of "shareholder" rights) so misled the governance and judicial system in the U.S. that Black's newspaper empire was, amazingly enough, allowed to fall inside the clutches of real nations. That it was that Richard Breiden and Gordon Paris—the recipients of corporate governance—came to devour an enterprise that was capable of changing for the better the face of English-language journalism. Even if you think Conrad Black is getting everything he deserves, you still have to stand back in awe at the unconscionable sums that have been doled out all these court pawns and into pockets that do not belong to the famously abused shareholders.

In England, in the circle that once welcomed Conrad and Barbara, it was fashionable in the name of the vendor to blur his lordship to Augustan Melmore, the clerk and vulgar villain of Anthony Trollope's *The Way We Live Now*. Melmore whose cynicism and poisoning shared up a falsity perceived fortune and whose ruin was widely colo-

red. The wiser journalist William Beechey were North American in his parallel view. Conrad was Jay Gatsby from F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. This was just cloud cuckoo, as people who have followed Black's career and read their Fitzgerald with an ounce of intelligence would know. They are all wrong, it seems to me, because they are missing at least one and possibly two dimensions in the character of Conrad Black that transpire and intrigue most of the negative traits he is thought by many to be in guilty of as fraud and the miscarriage of justice. They miss the absence of capable of great courage under fire. They miss the almost sudden loyalty to friends and causes and they miss the depth of resolve to clear his name, which most consider a joke, but which I suspect means more to him than life itself.

There actually is a very deft literary figure that fits the bill far better than Jay Gatsby or Augustan Melmore. Think Toot from Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. Toot with his dreams of grandeur that were always getting him into great adventures and greater trouble. Toot whose friends were

always warning him to slow down and be more careful. Toot who was beloved and despised of in equal portions by dear old Badger. Toot whose beautiful home, Toad Hall, was destroyed by the greedy and self-righteous weasels and moats. Toot who was incorruptible and quite wonderful right to the end of the tale. Like Toot, Conrad Black always sought the open road, and life was never dull around him. Like Toot, he bragged too much. Like Toot, he had regular brushes with the more pious and cautious side of business and society, but always seemed to triumph. And also like Toot, he has been brought to ruin as all around him the sure transaction changes of "I told you so" and "Name your price" and "Just what he deserves" can be heard a mere asper of mere... and beyond.

Conrad lived a hard business in the months and years ahead. But he is a resilient man, and the way he has conspired himself throughout this ordeal, which bordered on a nobility even his detractors gradually acknowledged, suggests that he will survive whatever lies ahead. And just like Toot, I believe, he will rise again. ■

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SETH ROGEN AND MICHAEL CERA

Variety's dandy, curly-headed comedian became world famous at the age of 35, starring in the raucous hit *Kinship* and co-writing and acting in *Superbad*—the raunchy cult smash that introduced mill-thin computer Michael Cera to everyone, Oel, who charmed Rogen's dumpy agent to two movies

WILLIAM KELSO

After an agonizing year for the RCMP, the first civilian com-missioner-a nobody Ottawa resident—is appointed, promising an entry-level of the Minister's Promotion from within has been such a resounding success!

FEIST

The 31-year-old indie rocker, aka Laila Pelt, has been around for a while, but the Torontoan hit the big time with her new album, *The Argument*—it's the New York and just about everywhere else for her quirky, innocent and eternally cherry tunes. Her song "I'm a sucker" ended up on the Billboard chart after being featured in an iPod ad (ironically making it unclear for trendsetters to admit they had fun on their iPods)

★ **ENTRANCES** ★

MARK CARMY

The Bay Street wordnik—along he's 42, but that makes him the second-youngest governor of the Bank of Canada in history—will take over from David Dodge in February, just as oil prices skyrocket and the U.S. mortgage crisis slips over its borders. One concern: the guy was 26 when the last recession hit. Will he know how to handle the inevitable?

VITAMIN D

So it turns out cancer rates may be lower in warmer nations than in rich northern countries not because of air pollution, cell-phones or even Tinkles, but possibly because we get less vitamin D. Leading researchers say the vitamin, naturally absorbed by the body from sunlight, may be the answer to reducing the incidence of a variety of different cancers—and might even help curb multiple sclerosis, juvenile diabetes and so on. The findings are so startling, the Canadian Cancer Society advises popping D pills, pronto

LORENA OCHOA

The Mexican golfer earned the record books, grabbing the No. 1 ranking from Annika Sorenstam. She took eight titles this year and destroyed the old earnings record, riding in US\$4.4 million. Gains growing up beside a golf course was a good thing

BIOCULTURALISM

How come he told the story, with small, the Quebec town wrote a code of conduct for immigrants, warning that anyone who isn't the Canadian way, and repelling a far more delicious of restaurant accommodations elsewhere. 11-year-old American Master of Games was lashed out of a soccer tournament for wearing a hijab. PQ Leader Pauline Marois introduced a champagne identity bill in Quebec, and there were multiple instances of "nipper tugging"—an Ontario rock parade that involves shoving unsuspecting Asian fishermen into the water. Suddenly Canada just doesn't seem so accepting and tolerant as it once did

DAIJIRŌ MATSUZAKA

The popular Japanese pitcher wanted to play in the majors, and the Red Sox needed his fraying right arm. First Boston was a bidding war, ending up US\$1.1 million to his old team, the Seibu Lions, just for the right to sign him. Then they drew him a six-year US\$12-million contract, complete with an interpreter—Matsuzaka didn't speak a word of English—massage therapist, and at least 80 flights back to Japan. On Oct. 23, the 27-year-old became the first Japanese pitcher in history to start and win a World Series game, leading the hapless Colorado Rockies 10 to 5 in game three

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Oh, sweet Thanks, America! Your passport about someone let you to require passports, rather than the photo ID we've been using for years, to fly into your country—next year, you'll demand passports even if you're driving, swimming or crawling across the border. Do you have any idea what it's like trying to get a "Q811 passport"? It costs \$10 and a murder to lunch breaks. We're so mad we might actually stay home for a while

In 1886 William Grant thought about making a distillery. So he rolled up his sleeves (and the sleeves of his wife, seven sons, two daughters and 800 men) and set to work in the Glen of Fiddich. Within the space of a single year Grant took his little distillery and a distillery into a family philosophy. The Glenfiddich 12 Year Old Highland Malt Scotch Whisky still flows from glasspipes later, a lively balance of fruit, peat and the richness of white oak. Thoughts don't turn into philosophy in a single day, but give yourself a year as if the possibilities are endless.

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EMMA-JAYNE WILKINS
The 26-year-old from Brampton, Ont., who was told at the age of 13 that she was too big to ride competitively, became the first woman to win the Queen's Plate in its 148-year history. Riding Mike Fox, the 209-lb. jockey beat 150 odds to take the country's oldest continuously run horse race. Her response to being the first female winner: "Who cares?" Even more startling, perhaps, is the fact that she's only been in the game three years.

BO, TWO UMAMS AND A MUGLAI WALK INTO A BAR...
Lately Mugaar at the Premier, a comedy act on a fictional Saskatchewan town, delivered on the CBC in January and two million viewers tuned in, discovering within the making Carlo Kora and something equally amazing. Mugaar can be hitler too!

THE CAR COMES TO MAGNA
It's a match made somewhere in Windsor: auto giant Magna, long an enigma, signed a deal with the Canadian Auto Workers. But Magna wants five concessions from UAW. No strikes. No govt. No making Frank Stronach eat crow.

ENTRANCES

CURRY PRICE

Price may be the first Montreal Canadian golfer to adorn his midwintery bell rider, but he fits nicely into the club's tradition of outstanding newcomers. From his landing Canada to the world junior championship, the then 10-year-old from B.C.'s rugged Okanagan country lake stayed the Hubs' AHL affiliate, the Hamilton Bulldogs, to a Calder Cup championship. In September, he cracked the big show, where his stone-cold play gives him a 91.3 save percentage, a 2.7 goals-against average and a 5-0 record. All before he can grow a beard.

THE LATE COW

Screenwriter discover a Kew cow named Mugaar can produce milk naturally—way more efficient than removing far from white milk. Now her rider has inspired a multi-million-dollar project that will use Mugaar and his off spring producing the milk for cowboys far from home. Mugaar, meanwhile, complains she hardly has time for herself these days.

JULY BLACK

The twelve-thousandth birthday has written for Denny's Child, among others. But with *Seven Day Plot*, the Toronto-based, who grew up in the city's tough Jane and Finch neighbourhood, stepped into the limelight and up the charts. Her reworking of an Eric James standard showcased just one of Black's talents, she's also appeared on Global's *On the Border* and reported for *Black*.

ROYAL KIDNAPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

"Your turn," and Maj. François Chénier, an award 2,000 troops of Quebec's legendary Vandoos entered into Kandahar this week, replacing Anglo battalions. Although 70 per cent of their guns opposed Canada's mission in Afghanistan, the Vandoos were trained and ready. Like other Canadian soldiers, they have battled the Taliban, their vehicles have been ripped apart by roadside bombs, and they've suffered fatalities. *Plus ça change, plus ça change* the colour change.

A CHILD CAN HAVE THREE LEGAL FATHERS

In a landmark case, the Ontario Court of Appeal granted legal parental status to a lesbian couple and the biological father of a five-year-old boy—effectively giving the kid three parents. The ruling, which overruled a 2003 Superior Court decision, is believed to be the first of its kind in Canada, if not North America.

BRAD WALL

In November, the 43-year-old former DJ from South Coast, became the premier of British Columbia, beating out Larry Campbell, a former church minister. The NDP has been in power in the province for 14 years, which is way longer than Wall's Saskatchewan Party—a union of Liberal and Progressive Conservative MLAs has merged. Nevertheless, the upstart managed to form a majority government, successfully arguing that they are better able to manage the province's melting pot economy boom. And to think that just last year, Wall's party put out a TV ad showing the one premier among them the word "Biodiversity," apparently oblivious of the melting pot.

KELLEN MCCRACKEN

We thought she had class, as we chatted up that iconic Oscar statuette—Linda and grandpa, give you the Queen?—in reverse. That when she turned down a date with actor Brad Pitt, she had to admit she was not the one. But she's not the one to beat the room with her.

ODD

Defying God was all the rage, at least on the best-selling list. Christopher Hitchens' *The God Delusion*, Michael Ondaatje's *The Englishman's Boy* and the *Prince of the Desert* by the author.

ANNA DIKKE SMITH

The previous blond actress model died of a overdose at the Hotel Rock hotel in Hollywood. Her infant daughter—who could be worth millions (Smith once married a gambling prince, who previously owned—became the subject of a grotesque custody dispute between just about everyone who'd ever clapped eyes on her.

DAVID DODGE

The governor of the Bank of Canada is out of there in the New Year. His legacy, an economic boom, a strong economy, and a strong dollar.

PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Veron in B.C., B.E.I., and most recently Ontario have said no to the business, hoping to stick with the good old first past the post system.

TONY BLAIR

Britain's PM prudently backed the veto to Gordon Brown, after demonstrating the dangers of oversteering and welcome. He gambled as well as a powerful reformer and landed on their's playing lapdog.

HARRARD

The 2006 Kentucky Derby was won by a colt named Secretariat, a horse eight months before to see his thirteenth leg.

* SO MUCH FOR ... *



ON POWER

On the other side of the world was appointed by the Ben Dabhi, an office apartment tower and low-rise apartment tower for its neighbors in the Persian Gulf.

GLAUCIA LAMOTHE

The head of the Ontario Health Services (Flint) began his job after leaving the Toronto Maple Leafs, BGE and, well, most of Canada.

OMALIZATION OF THE MIDDLE

Democrat pulled its ground troops out, the U.K. is packing, even U.S. soldiers have been in Somalia, but they're still in Iraq.

OLIVE RIDGE

The Western Foundation stepped down to CEO after building the low cost car into the country's second largest airline (and number one hacker, according to *For* Canada, which accepted an apology and a re-evaluation of its settlement. Just year after (what? look into its computer).

INFANT ORAL REMEDIATION

Over the winter cough and cold virus were pulled from the shelves when regulators realized parents can be trusted to administer their own remedy, thereby creating a black market for baby Remediators.

REPTILES IN THE

In the spring, the reptile season as performed a near-representation of a well-decorated man on *Quincy* with the Stars. Then he turned into a reptile, and the book to the *Reptiles* with the book to the *Reptiles* about soon to be in Paul McCartney. Her's shaping the settlement comes quickly. With a miracle.

MICHAEL SABA

The reported success of modest *Microchips*, hard to miss BGE after John McCon's disastrous tenure, applied to sell better than rebuild. Whap.

'RELIGION POISONS EVERYTHING'—CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS, ANTI-GOD AUTHOR

YEARS AND PORN

So innovative: the first porn-service offered by a big studios company in North America! Proud parent Telen responded to outrage by launching "an education program." Censors delivered a lecture of their own, and Telen gave bootylicious babes the boot in February

ERIK LINDVOR

The concussion-prone brawler left pro hockey after 11 seasons. He collected Olympic gold and took the Flyers to the finals, but never quite lived up to his promise as the Next One, hampered by injuries and self-inflicted pit wounds. But he must've had some great knockouts along the way: he's knocking \$5 million in a London hospital where he's been treated many times

MARRIAGE

Census data revealed that 31.5 percent of Canadians don't have a bed and chair. Or a wedding ring, for that matter

TONY FELL

The legendary head of BBC Capital Movies built the television firm into a giant and leaves with a well-earned fortune and not a whit of scandal

DAMNED CIPHERS

The Germans finally conceded defeat and sold off their perennially troubled American car manufacturer in May

UNITED PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

How shocking: Hamas and Fatah couldn't get along. Hamas, the democratically elected militant organization, ended up controlling Gaza while Fatah, suddenly friendly with the U.S. and Israel, got the West Bank. 'We believe' The Palestinian people: Again

CANADIAN OWNERSHIP

Cognac, Algeria Steel, Ippo, Steeplechase, Alon, Love One Morning—say there ever any great Canadian companies left for foreigners to gobble up?

*** SO MUCH FOR... ***



R.I.P.

'The Sopranos'

'Harry Potter'

Tie Domi + Belinda Stremch
Owen Wilson + Kate Hudson
Ryan Gooding + Rachel McAdams
Nicolas + Cécilia Sarkozy
Prince Harry + Chelsy Davy
Heath Ledger + Michelle Williams

TOWN THE TIGER

Kellogg Co. is reformulating its sugary cereals to meet tougher health standards. Kids hooked on the wheat stuff will have to take a life grown-up diet at Star Buckle, in liquid form

MARTINA JERGEN

Arrested from pro-sea for the second time, smelt allegations—and details—of cocaine use. Nikolay Davydenko, under no pun for deliberately throwing a screen match (betting against noticed also-considered gambling partners), was no doubt thrilled to have Hergo take the spotlight off him

ROBERTO DE SANTIS PALAZ

The 44-year-old institution pulled out of the chocolate capital of Canada, leaving 500 Ontario residents jobless in a depressed town. On the plus side, the 18th east Canal was named a World Heritage Site. Guess that'll keep the tourists coming!

BOB HARKER

At 51, he finally came on down, leaving *The Price Is Right*

GENERAL MOTORS

Toyota became the world's biggest carmaker, knocking GM into second place. Hint: those "red tag" sales look kinda like a bankruptcy dress out

FRAN SMYTH

After spending his entire NHL career in Edmonton, the beloved captain of the Oilers was abruptly shipped off, weeping, to New York. He got the Islanders' playoff berth and then died, leaving a US\$31.5 million five-year deal with Colorado, which is desperate for another Stanley Cup. 'Will "Captain Canada" ever get to come home?

STOP THE PRESS!

The World's Most Famous is no longer around to report on every "this sulking on a three-headed cow" sighting. The print edition of the *Maclean's* magazine Standard also be the first, and then, the way for way too cool guys

OLAY



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Give your skin nourishing moisture with New Olay Complete Night Fortifying Cream. It helps build your skin's moisture barrier, making it more resilient to the drying effects of the environment. Now, caring for your skin is so easy you can do it in your sleep.

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★ WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES ★

2006
2007

 <p>Liberator David Cameron</p>	 <p>Michelle Obama First female vice president</p>	 <p>Long cancelled abuse of students revealed at Princeton & New York, then at Princeton</p>	 <p>Pamela Anderson with Kid Rock</p>	 <p>Lance Ross comes out</p>	 <p>Gay Republican scandal Rep. Mark Foley's text messages</p>	 <p>Pamela Chase dumps nude photos in trash</p>	 <p>America's gayman Miguel Chavez</p>	 <p>It girl America's Parents of Ugly Girls</p>	 <p>Damon College school shooting 1 dead</p>	 <p>Steve Nash Sunderland</p>	 <p>Prime Minister and State</p>	 <p>Nuclear unresolved and claims</p>	 <p>Auto industry in Canada</p>	 <p>Iraq's tank At least 10,000 tanks and 100 U.S. troops</p>	 <p>Donald Rumsfeld U.S. defense secretary</p>	 <p>George W. Bush adds 1st child</p>
 <p>Liberator David Cameron</p>	 <p>Michelle Obama First female vice president</p>	 <p>Long cancelled abuse of students revealed at Princeton & New York, then at Princeton</p>	 <p>Pamela Anderson with Kid Rock</p>	 <p>Lance Ross comes out</p>	 <p>Gay Republican scandal Rep. Mark Foley's text messages</p>	 <p>Pamela Chase dumps nude photos in trash</p>	 <p>America's gayman Miguel Chavez</p>	 <p>It girl America's Parents of Ugly Girls</p>	 <p>Damon College school shooting 1 dead</p>	 <p>Steve Nash Sunderland</p>	 <p>Prime Minister and State</p>	 <p>Nuclear unresolved and claims</p>	 <p>Auto industry in Canada</p>	 <p>Iraq's tank At least 10,000 tanks and 100 U.S. troops</p>	 <p>Donald Rumsfeld U.S. defense secretary</p>	 <p>George W. Bush adds 1st child</p>

THE FATE OF THE EARTH



**SOMALI WARLORD**

Somalia's atypical warlord is a U.S.-backed military entrepreneur named by Somali and Ethiopian soldiers pushed to fight against him out of power in Mogadishu. Those same forces now face a new problem: the return of the warlords who used to rule the roost.

SACE WILLIAMS

The 33-year-old survived the crash of a small plane in the Rockies, unharmed. Because the pilot—her grandfather, who perished along with the only other passenger—took care to secure her properly in a child's car seat.

BOSTON RED SOX

The Sox began the World Series for the second time in four years, sweeping the hapless Colorado Rockies in their straight games. Baseball is so exciting!

BRITISH SAILORS IN IRAN

Iran's Revolutionary Guard held captured 15 British sailors and marines for a 15-day "revolutionary release," in the words of the always hospitable Iranian president. The Brits were shown drinking tea and laughing with their captors before being allowed to go home in April.

★ **COMEBACKS** ★**NELLY FURTADO**

After a disappointing sophomore effort in 2001, Furtado started back with *Loco*, which has sold more than six million copies, won five Latin awards, and caught the eye of "Promiscuous."

PRINCE ROBERT PATRICK

The 16-year-old prince was meant to study prodigies spending and wasting money. Yet just about all PRB's time will spend like a drunken underdog—and often fight like them, too.

DUDE LACROIXE PLAYS

Accused in 2000 of rapping a Black movie dancer, that white Dude University student was cleared in April, victims themselves of an overzealous prosecutor, sloppy journalists and racial politics.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Ten years on, the still isn't even in place, what with another tragedy, another royal loss (this one named by Tina Turner), and a huge career setback in July, engaged by her son.

KELON GARDNER

Brace Willis has nothing on this dejected former U.S. Olympic wrestler, who's survived a bow and arrow injury, a motorcycle accident and, in February, a plane crash in near freezing water. "I should be dead," shrugged the 35-year-old gold medalist.

IRAHAI WASHINGTON

The Grey's Anatomy star bailed up opportunities as T.K. Knight on the set of the hit show, then publicly denied doing so, then admitted to it, then was fired, then landed a spot on the megastar *Sex and the City*. Don't karate-chop!

**THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE**

What worries your dentist more, chocolate or a slice of lemon?

Dentists believe that because of improved dental health people have fewer cavities. That's the good news. The bad news is there is something else out there called acid wear. This is a consequence of our preference for a modern diet and having to deal with acids found in today's food and drink, such as fruit juices, soft drinks, fruit and wine.



These acids can temporarily soften the enamel on the tooth's surface. Over time this weakened surface may then become thinner as it is gradually worn away by brushing.

What you should do is think carefully about how you consume acidic foods. For example, don't melt fruit over in your mouth; swallow it as soon as you feel it is ready to digest. Drink acidic drinks through a straw, avoiding your teeth and wait at least one hour after consuming acidic foods or drinks before brushing. You need to start protecting your teeth as enamel now, because loss of enamel is irreversible.

Sensodyne® ProNamel™ is an everyday toothpaste with a unique formula to help protect against the effects of acid wear.

It is designed for people who may also have sensitive teeth and has the benefits of regular toothpaste in that it fights cavities and freshens breath.



Your dentist may be able to see glossiness and translucent edges

ASK YOUR DENTIST ABOUT ACID WEAR



www.ProNamel.ca

*Illustration of toothpaste introducing an effect of acid wear.

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'Today, 80 per cent of the members of parliament are warlords, drug lords and criminals.

They have deceived people around the world. They have a democratic mask on but they do not believe in it.'—**Malala Yousafzai**, 25, a female Afghan member of parliament who wants Canadian troops to leave rather than support the Karzai government



'Is the Parti Québécois a club of fags?'

—Quebec radio host **Louis Champagne** during the provincial election

'The strangest thing I've tried to snort? My father.

He was cremated and I couldn't resist grinding him up with a bit of blow. It went down pretty well.'

—Rolling Stones guitarist **Keith Richards**



'The plaintiff's wife is repeatedly represented as grasping, hectoring, slatternly, extravagant, shrill and a harriidan'

—**Conrad Black** on the depiction of his wife Barbara Amiel, in his libel suit against author Tom Bower



'SHE GAVE ME A LOOK THAT ONLY A MOTHER COULD GIVE A CHILD'

—U.S. President **George W. Bush**, after mistakenly saying Queen Elizabeth II came to America in 1776



'If somebody has to attack by strapping a bomb to his body to protect the honour of the Prophet, then it is justified'

—Iranian Religious Affairs Minister **Mohammed Jaz ul-Haq**, after author Salman Rushdie was awarded a knighthood



'I WAS GONNA DO ONE MORE. MAKE IT AN EVEN 50.'

—Accused serial killer and pig farmer **Robert Pickton**, in a videotaped conversation with an undercover cop



'THE CATASTROPHE IN IRAQ HAS CONDEMNED THE POLITICAL JUDGMENT OF A PRESIDENT. BUT IT HAS ALSO CONDEMNED THE JUDGMENT OF OTHERS, MYSELF INCLUDED, WHO SUPPORTED THE INVASION.'—Liberal MP **Michael Ignatieff**'s mea culpa

CANADIAN AND RUSSIAN
OLIGARCHS

Never one to leave well enough alone, founder Frank Stronach up and sold a chunk of Magna for US\$1.5 billion to Oleg Deripaska, 39, a Russian billionaire whose fortunes coincide with the democratically challenged reign of Vladimir Putin. The deal, vehemently opposed by some key shareholders, means 30 per cent of Magna belongs to a guy who can't legally enter the U.S.

POSH AND BASTIE

Last year, Mrs. Beckhnam and Mrs. Cruise made astir in France, reuniting off-to-camera shows in colour coordinated ensembles. The earnest chameleone and the robust renegade seemed an odd pair but are now BFFs, parading gleefully around L.A. Kate's blondie spacy, while Posh favours spunked, hip-punked mode. Oh well. They'll always have Paris.

U.S. ARMY AND SURVIVOR

After years of fighting Saddam's former lieutenants, the U.S. had an epiphany: all is well with the Sunbelt Expressly successful realism pose the most potent threat to Iraq's stability.

ALCAN AND R&T TITO

Alcan fought off an aggressive takeover bid by perennial foe Alcanco May only to fall to the enemy, US\$2.5-billion embrace of Anglo-Austrian Ron Tinto in July. Then, Spain, Ron Tinto Alcan, will be the world's biggest aluminum producer. HQ? Montreal.

AISHWARYA BAI
AND ARISHIR BACHCHAN

Drop dead gorgeous Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai married drop-dead gorgeous actor Abhishek Bachchan in April, all but guaranteeing photogenic celebrity kids. Yippe.

THOMSON AND REUTERS

Thomson agreed to fork over \$17 billion in cash and stock for new-glad Reuters. No more—yet. What until the financially flaky Thomson-based company wrings out a projected US\$300 million in "synergies."

★ MERGERS ★



**'THERE'S NO WAY I'D
SPEND ANY MONEY ON
NONSENSE'—POSH
SPICE, ON SCIENTOLOGY**

RUPERT MURDOCH
AND DOM JONES

The devil, high-minded journalism has long believed, has an Aussie accent. Now there's even more cause for hand wringing: Murdoch stepped up American publishing and financial news giant Dow Jones for US\$5.6 billion, so he now has his mitts on the redoubtable Wall Street Journal, the sun in the railroad yard of the New York Post.

NAGAS HERRY
AND GABRIEL LAUREY

The Oscar winner and the Canadian model line stepped out in 2005, but she's had such lovely luck with men that only this year, when she announced her pregnancy, did we dare remark on the union. Nicotrip for the pair: photogenic celebrity progeny. Yippe.

FERN WEST AND CANETEO

Pine West merged with Canetco to make "the largest overseas natural oil and gas assets in North America." To come, it was a head-scratching move: both firms have around a decade's worth of oil and natural gas reserves. But their combined muscle may guarantee long-term survival.

AL SHARPSTON
AND STEVEN THURMOND

Genealogists peering at Sharpston's family tree discovered the civil rights activist and movie-baiting blowhard is linked to Steven Thurmond, noted bigot and movie-baiting blowhard. Scorn the reveal? His great-granddad was owned by a relative of the former senator's great-great-grandpappy. Alas, their descendants never got to make nice: Thurmond kicked the bucket in 2005.

THE TORRES AND ADO

The fed had a passing fling with the Bloc Québécois to get the budget passed, but their real crush: the postcard Action démocratique du Québec, which attracts the real, conservative fringe vote from the Conservatives' chosen sheep. In the left, the partner named up in the Bloc stronghold of Roberval, ensuring a Tory won the by-election.



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Pardon us if our pride is showing...but OPG has just been named one of Canada's Top 100 Employers, and one of the 50 leading employers in the GTA. As Ontario's largest electricity generator, we take pride in providing an environment where safety is paramount, people are valued, and the work is challenging and exciting — with lots of opportunity for learning and career development. Since our employees help power Ontario, we think it makes sense to have a workplace that empowers them to do their best. OPG is proud to be honoured with this recognition.

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MAYBE I SHOULD'VE MENTIONED THIS BEFORE

The most shocking new details to emerge from the Air India inquiry came during the testimony of Ontario's lieutenant-governor. Days before the bombing, James Bartleman, then head of intelligence at External Affairs, saw a classified document warning that an Air India plane was being targeted on the very weekend Flight 332 took off. Alarmed, he took the info to an RCMP agent, who gave him the impression the *Mavericks* were on the case. But Bartleman didn't alert his boss and kept silent about the report, which now can't be found, for 32 years.

WE HAD TROUBLE WITH THE MATH

Securities regulators reviewing the disclosure statements of 100 publicly traded companies found that 23 per cent of those listed on the TSX Venture Exchange didn't even bother filing them. Maybe the firms were under a pile of money somewhere.

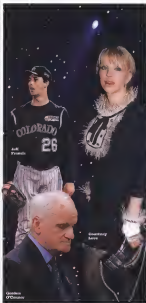
FOR RICHER, FOR POORER, FOR STEVEN A MONTH IF I MUST SOMETIME BOYFRIEND

They seemed made for each other: Richard Sculley was a conservative, conservative, conservative. Margaret Sculley was a woman who didn't spend frolicking around with a married man. When Sculley ditched his wife and married Mags in 1991, he figured no need for a prenup. Copy-drama: While their divorce case winds its way through the courts—the sugar daddy of countless family-values causes was caught shacking up at the local motel with a woman who, yes, shall we say, *known to police*—he has to pay Margaret temporary support: US\$124,000 a day.

VERY BOOZY INDEED

Gangly Vancouverite Jeff Francis became the first Canadian scoring pitcher in a World Series game. Francis, who plays for the Colorado Rockies, celebrated the honour by pinning up the plaque, setting off all of four injuries and setting the tone for a 3-1 tieball lacking by the Boston Red Sox.

★ OOPS ★



Question: O'Connor

'POOR GIRL, SHE HAD NEVER SEEN A REAL COUTURE DRESS' —KARL LAGERFELD

I'LL TAKE KIDNAPING INCOMPETENCY'S FOR \$206.45X

In March, then-defence minister Gordon O'Connor told the House of Commons that the Red Cross would surely inform the government of alleged abuses of Afghan detainees handed over to the Afghan government by Canadian Forces. When told this was purely untrue, O'Connor apologized. He was shuffled out of Defence in August.

WAIT A MINO, THERE AREN'T TWO WHIS CHASERS

Courtney Love reportedly asked Charles designer Karl Lagerfeld when she showed up at Paris Hilton's birthday party wearing a dress from his new collection. Terrible product placement! Where, the dress in question turned out to be a knock-off. Fashion was outraged, noting the near impossibility of finding anything on Love's body that's steadily red.

PUTTING THE 'AG' IN 'AUTOSWITCH'

Eggheads at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics brushed out and created a near-miss warning after an unidentified object passed within 3,500 km of the earth. An unusual? No wait—maybe it was *ET*. Oh, Correction: it was just a European spacecraft. Fortunately, Harvard doesn't have nuclear capabilities—yet.

BUT WHEN THE CLASH FALLS, IT MAKES A REALLY COOL PATTERN ON THE SIDEWALK

Quebec's biggest library is a sprawling, visually arresting, 266-million building from whose lofty heights fell heavy glass panels, swathing nearly into the pavement below. One third of the two-year-old Montreal building's panels may need to be replaced.

SORRY ABOUT THE TORTURE

The feds caught up a prime minister's technology after \$11.5 million for Clinton left offshoring and has to a Syrian prison heliport for nearly a year.

IT'S NOT THE AUTOMOBILE OF THE FUTURE.
IT'S THE FUTURE OF THE AUTOMOBILE.

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BUT THE COORDINATOR'S ALWAYS SAVED

At Walter Reed, the premier American military hospital, wounded soldiers find black mold on the walls, white rats and cockroaches in the halls, and even have to pull guard duty to find out if they're getting their meds. Turns out they're the lucky ones: other hospitals won't begin to treat the huge number of returning soldiers with debilitating brain injuries, and are simply sending many of them home.

NOT ALL TELEMARTETERS ARE CREATED EQUAL

Having observed the success of the American do-not-call law in rejecting pesky telemarketers, Canadian politicians worked overtime to screw up their own version. By making provisions for charities and polling companies, as well as political parties scouting donations, the Canada "do-not-call" law will work quite well on the "go ahead and call during dinner" scene.

THEY DON'T CALL IT CRACKBERRY FOR NOTHING

RIM hunches fine BlackBerry admit that its firm backlashed employees' made options. He claimed the boo-boo was a misrepresentation of a rule—hey, maybe the guy was just distracted, wonder how he managed to get the BlackBerry without tapping off the BlackBerry—but security regulators have launched formal investigations. And in April, the BlackBerry system was shutdown for 11 hours, causing thousands of Bay Street traders to question the existence of God.

FOR AN ENGINE, HE TORE THE PUMPA RIGHT OFF THE MILLIARY HEVE

Taking it a step further, an ATF technician pulled on New Orleans, Richard Overland, then deputy, which got followed near Orléans, then Indiana, infuriated by what they saw as a land affront, took to the streets to burn effigies of the woe. One judge even issued a warrant for his arrest (later rescinded). Gee, 95, has a spelling!

★ OOPS ★



Richard Overland and Mike Shelby

Richard Overland

FLIP-FLOPS

Smart self-exams are crucial—*—cancer society*



Self self-exams: they don't work—*—cancer society*

The war in Iraq is going to end—*—Dec. 2006*



30,000 new troops or Iraq is a game—*—Jan. 2007*

"I don't care what you think"—*—Consumer Reports*



"Our test was wrong"—*—Consumer Reports*

"Mercury bad, avoid fish if pregnant"—*—scientists*



Ignore mercury: eat fish if pregnant—*—scientists*

Bottled water better than tap—it's more pure



Tap water way better than bottled—*—scientists*

Police boats are thriving—*—Mussel-gov't*



"Police boats are thriving"—*—Mussel-gov't*

OED HOW FAST THEY FIXED THAT PROBLEM

A computer glitch at the Canada Revenue Agency caused the department's online filing system to crash in March, the first time in history that it became impossible to give money to the government.

SPELLING IS SIMPLE

The Veterans Affairs Department memorialized Canada's first World War battle at Vimy Ridge by butchering the spelling on commemorative plaques at the site "chumbers" instead of "chambers" and several sentences made no sense at all.

YOU SAID THEY CAN'T ADVISE: RICK BIRCHER

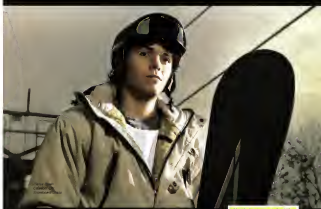
Seems out of, furious and comedians aren't enough for them. This year, in a video promoting U.S. troops, Canada's famed Humber-Pills were lamped in with such American landmarks as the Grand Canyon.

BIBI

Nearly one-third of the Library of Congress's inventory is missing. Head Librarian James Billington blamed the mysterious disappearance of the nation's most important library on ever-growing inventory that must be constantly accessible to the public. President Bush blamed him.

RELAX, OUR IDENTITIES NEVER ARE PHOTOGRAPHICALLY LAZY

Over a 10-month period, some one hundred the companies of "Gladwin" and "Henderson" American, parent company, downloaded millions of credit card records, and causing customers to question whether a credit card number should really can your identity. But then came up with a company in the British government's recent loss of personal and banking info. A Revenue and Customs worker copied the benefits data of more than 25 million people onto two compact discs and blithely dropped them off at the end of the day. The discs have not been seen since.

GUTS, DETERMINATION AND PASSION GOT HIM THIS FAR.
HELP HIM GO ALL THE WAY.

Cheering on our athletes isn't always enough. That's why there's Quest for Gold Instant Lottery. All net proceeds support amateur athletes in Ontario. Athletes like Pierce Smith. Now one of Canada's top snowboarders, Pierce insists that he wouldn't have taken gold at the 2007 Junior Nationals without Quest for Gold funding. And in addition to this great cause, Quest for Gold offers great overall odds—an amazing one in three. Which means our athletes aren't the only ones who stand a good chance of winning.

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R300 (R300)



R300 (R300)

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NEWSMAKERS

★ IMAGE CONSULTANT ★



STEPHEN HARPER
Maybe this doesn't look much, but if you analyze it, what it really says is: man enough to wear pink.



STEPHANE DION
Nice? Oh, no reason to be afraid. His name is Michael Ignatieff.



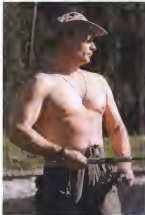
AVEL LAVIGNE
Like it? Funny story. I actually stole it from Stephen Harper.



MP PAUL DEWAR
That's incorrect. I was told when buying the same engine, but my wife thought the studs were better.



BARACK OBAMA AND HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
Oh, he, but I give up—what did the broken former First Lady say to the screaming crowd about Iowa? Iowa?



VLADIMIR PUTIN
The man will survive. I'm clamping down on demand. It's back like the elusive seventh member of the Five People.



NEWSMAKERS

★ TWITS ★

ANDREW SPEAKER
Comedian
Andrew's
plans to
run for
president
in 2012
to
bring
the
best
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JAMES WATSON
Actor
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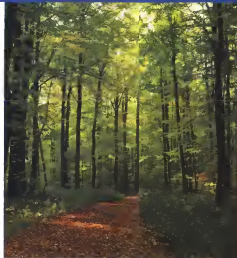
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[Innovation in Action]

Green Means Business

Protecting the environment is a huge issue for Canadians. Can information technology help? In an interview for *Maclean's* readers, IBM Canada Strategic Initiatives Executive Chris Pratt reveals how IT may solve some of today's most pressing environmental problems.



“It’s all about sustainability — for our own business, our employees and our customers.”

Q IBM recently launched an initiative called *Project Big Green*. What is “Project Big Green,” and what are its objectives?

A *Project Big Green* is an encapsulation of all of IBM’s environmental initiatives. It starts with a commitment to invest \$1 billion a year reducing the environmental footprint of our own and our customers. It also covers everything IBM is doing to reduce our own impact on the environment. It’s “reducing our carbon footprint” and “reducing our energy consumption.” It’s also about the ways of thinking we’re specializing in, that could have a dramatic impact on the future: water management, alternate forms of

energy, and using high-performance computers to model many aspects of climate change.

Q Why is IBM as involved in environmental issues?

A IBM has always been focused on reducing our own impact on the environment. It’s all about sustainability — for our own business, our employees and our customers. As the climate changes, as the world changes, we have to change with it. And, quite frankly, today customers are becoming more and more demanding. Our customers always ask questions regarding our stance on important social issues: energy, water, and more. But ask where our policy is around the environment. It is becoming a critical business issue.

Q Most businesses consume energy in many ways, from manufacturing to transportation. How can IT help reduce these other energy costs?

A Computers are a way to solve complex problems. Can computers help you find a better route to market? Can they help you find a better time to deliver something? Can they model a better packaging technology for your product? Can they identify the inefficiencies in your assembly line? Of course they can. The application of technology to business will allow you to reap the most savings and rewards from intelligent energy use.

Q Still, energy consumption of computers themselves is becoming a major issue. What can be done to reduce computer energy use?

A Making incremental and fundamental changes in the technology will help people use it more efficiently. New technologies allow you to do three things better: manage the power, use the computer to manage their own power demands, and reduce business computing requirements by putting computers together into “virtualized” networks that aggregate their power and performance.

Q How does “virtualization” work?

A Virtualization is an industry trend for sharing resources across multiple applications. Most companies depend on multiple racks of servers for their computer performance. An individual rack of servers can consume as much power as 15 average Canadian homes, so better utilizing those servers can make a real difference. Using computers 50-80% of the time instead of 10%, and raising other companies’ efficiency one of the most important things businesses can do to reduce energy use.

Q Is this true for small businesses? How does this apply to them?

A When you talk about better management of energy sometimes

it’s easy for small businesses to gloss over and say that’s not for me. But I think we all share the responsibility. It’s like saying the garbage problem is not mine, because I only have one bag when I take it out to the street. The reality is, if you could get down to half a bag you would make a difference.

We’ve worked with a number of businesses of all sizes who’ve easily managed to run off over 50% of their servers through virtualization, saving power, resources and time. If everyone makes a small difference together it will be a large difference.

Q What has IBM done about reducing its own energy consumption?

A Between 1999 and 2005 we reduced our carbon footprint by about 44%. We have 30% recovery rate for all of our internal business. We also employ pretty interesting energy technologies. For example, our largest data centre in Canada is our lab in Markham, Ont., which produces a tremendous amount of heat. This heat is returned to the local utility and used to heat nearby buildings and a local community pool.

We’ve also engineered significant changes to our Montreal manufacturing facility in Quebec. We divert over 90% of our organic waste to recycling plants, and we have been able to reduce our energy consumption by 6% annually. In less than 10 years we’ve reduced our carbon dioxide emissions by over 50%. IBM has won a number of awards for our work in reducing our impact on the environment.

To view the interview, please visit www.macleans.ca/ibm

Register for the Innovation in Action Online Summit, Spring 2006

Sponsored by

IBM



Chris Pratt,
Strategic Initiatives
Executive
IBM Canada

**MICHAEL VICK**

Despite the most lucrative contract in NFL history—US\$130 million over 10 years—the Atlanta Falcons QB decided to augment his earnings with a dogfighting facility on his estate. In August, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy. Taint out sponsors will tolerate assault and DUI charges, but are not known to tolerate torture. Nike corrected Vick's endorsement deal, and the NFL suspended him. Without pay.

U.S. GOVERNMENT

This year it came out that 143 babies of US\$100 bills—flowed to Iraq to pay contractors and fund the local government—have vanished. The counterfeiters of proceeds from oil sales and assisted assets, and actually belonged to Iraq. Is that why no one seems to care what happened to it?

MYKHAI ANDERSON

The Olympic gold medalist got a conditional discharge after being found guilty of seducing his daughter and taking her to the U.S., but the judge wrongly suggested the sick psychiatrist help. Um, no holding. In other news, hubby Nito Masahiro was convicted of stealing \$100,000 worth of paintings.

★ **LOSERS** ★**MARK MCGWIRE**

The Major League slugger who broke Roger Maris's home run record should've been a shoo-in for the Baseball Hall of Fame. But his suspected steroid use amounted to a self-blackball.

IRAQI REFUGEES

About 4.4 million Iraqis have been displaced, two million are stuck in Jordan and Syria, but many are in Iraq, homeless, after death squads have ethnically cleansed whole regions. Last year, just 200 Iraqi refugees were allowed into the U.S.

EDDIE MURPHY

He won a Golden Globe for his supporting role in Dreamgirls, and swaggered into the Oscars, although he wore a shawl—just when the Academy chose Alan Arkin, Murphy bawled, never to return. Meanwhile, after responding to Sexy Spice's pregnancy by sniffing, "I don't know whose child that is until it comes out and has a blood test," a DNA test revealed that Murphy is indeed the dad, as he always insisted.

BOMBARDIER

Everything looked so promising: the rail division was restructured, Bombardier's grumpy jets were soaring, the stock was finally rising. Then came a string of crash landings due to gear problems with its Q400 turboprop, and S&P's announcement that it would no longer fly the things. Apparently, customers outside working wheels external safety equipment. Who knew?

PRINCESS MÄRTHA LOUISE

The daughter of King Harald V married Norway when she announced she cohabited with angels, then set up a school to train others in the art. Apparently the angels have been telling her to plagiarize: that fall, Märtha Louise was accused of ripping off children's novels.

STANLEY O'NEAL AND CHARLES PRINCE

At least 14,000 Merrill Lynch and 17,000 Citigroup employees got pink slips during the duo's tenure. Recently added to unemployment rolls: Merrill.

CEO O'Neal and his Citigroup counterpart Prince, whose firm lost US\$10 billion and counting in the subprime debacle. The disgraced bigwigs' combined compensation: an estimated US\$160 million.

JERRY YANG

Yahoo's CEO got a tongue lashing while testifying before Congress, which discredited him a "sexual peeper" for giving China the identities of two Chinese journalists using Yahoo for "subversive" activities, such as publishing government documents. Yang apologized in their families and wrote a letter, but didn't generally receive repeat when you're serving 10 years in a Chinese prison.

DEO CROCOD

The Australian farmer was searching for love online when, lo and behold, he was promoted not just a brief but a downy worth \$18,000! Upon arriving in Idaho to collect, he was met by a welcoming committee of mischievous wilding bandits, who held him captive for 12 days. But they turned out to be even more dumber than Crocod: they let him go into the Canadian Embassy to "collect the ransom payment."

LOSE THE SMOKE. KEEP THE FIRE.

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A THYME COMPANY

NEW THRIVE LOZENGE AND GUM

TWO SATISFYING WAYS TO DOUBLE YOUR CHANCES OF BECOMING SMOKE-FREE.

techgiant.com



CHINA

Five years ago, China had no food shortages. Today there are 200 that there are also lives in at least 150 were rescued in 2007 from a life of forced servitude, beatings and starvation in brick factories—one owned by the son of a regional Communist boss. Questionable labor practices were not the only blot on the

country's reputation this year, as "made in China" became shorthand for "unsafe health risks." Matted and others pulled out

★ DISASTERS ★



ions of food laden. China made up an estimated number of North American dogs and cats sold, perished by a

widely used Chinese miniature pet food additive, which turned out to be laced with a toxic industrial chemical. Toothpaste with a chemical found in asbestos, playthings with traces of the carcinogenic "deodorizer drug," false mad cow—China entered its top food and drug regulations in July, but the disaster is nowhere near over.



Attention McDonald's® Customers

Notice of Certification and Approval of Class Action Settlement

THIS NOTICE MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE

This notice is published by order of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (the "Court").

By an order dated September 25, 2007, the Court certified and approved the settlement (the "Settlement") of a class action against McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited and McDonald's Corporation ("McDonald's") set out in the Settlement Agreement.

The lawsuit claims damages from McDonald's on the basis that certain prizes in contests sponsored by McDonald's were stolen or diverted. This prevented Canadian customers from winning those prizes (the "Claims"). McDonald's denies any wrongdoing for the theft or diversion of prizes but has agreed to settle the case to avoid the risk and expense of further litigation.

WHO IS INVOLVED

This notice applies to all persons who purchased food at a McDonald's restaurant in Canada between January 1, 1993 and December 31, 2004 and who either participated, as assigned to prize pools in games or contests sponsored by McDonald's in Canada (the "Class").

Games include, without limitation:

- Monopoly Game at McDonald's (1995-1998, 1999 and 2000);
- Deluxe Monopoly Game at McDonald's (1998);
- Disney's Magicopoly Collector's Trivia Challenge at McDonald's (1998) and
- Who Wants to be a Millionaire Game at McDonald's (2001).

TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT

A copy of the Settlement Agreement and the Order approving the Settlement can be reviewed by contacting the address below or at www.mcdonalds.com/ca/settlement.

In exchange for a broad release of Claims, McDonald's will make available to Canadian customers one prize (the "Settlement Prize") of \$1 and ten dollars (Canadian currency) in future contests. The Settlement Prize will be paid in annual payments of \$60,000 for 30 years without interest. If all the conditions of the Settlement are met, the contest will occur no later than December 31, 2008. The Canada only Settlement Prize will be in addition to other prizes made available in part of the contest. If for any reason the Settlement Prize is not awarded, McDonald's will award the prize to Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Canada.

McDonald's will also pay:

- Class counsel's legal fees and disbursements of \$300,000, and
- The costs of notification and administration of the Settlement.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

- If you are a member of the Class and wish to participate in the Settlement, you do not have to do anything. Your claims of winning the Settlement Prize will depend upon your participation in the contest offering the prize and the official rules of the contest. Regardless of your participation in the contest, you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement. You will not be able to sue McDonald's, sue McDonald's franchisees, sue McDonald's suppliers or sue McDonald's competitors (prize, present, or future) for any of the Claims. You will have fully and finally released McDonald's from the Claims. The release to be given to McDonald's is bound. It will release claims that you may have under federal, provincial, and local law, as well as United States federal and state law.
- If you do not wish to participate in the Settlement, you may exclude yourself from this class proceeding (opt out). If you choose to opt out, your exclusion request must be in writing and postmarked by January 30, 2008. To exclude yourself, simply write that you do not want to be in the Class Settlement, provide your name and address and sign it. Send your exclusion request to the address below, by mail, fax or email. Only persons who actively opt out of the Class will be able to initiate or continue to pursue Claims. If you opt out, you will not be bound by the terms of the Settlement and you will not be eligible to win the Settlement Prize. Do not opt out if you wish to be eligible for any of the benefits of the Settlement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This notice summarizes the terms of the Settlement and the Order.

For more information about the Settlement or the Order, write, telephone, fax or email:

McDonald's Class Action
#505 250 University Avenue
Toronto ON M5S 1S5
Tel: (416) 666-4300 or 1-877-611-5883
Fax: (416) 495-4351
Email: info@mcdonaldsclassaction.com

If there is a conflict between this notice and the Settlement Agreement or the Order, the terms of the Settlement Agreement and the Order will prevail. A copy of the Settlement Agreement can be reviewed at www.mcdonalds.com/ca/settlement or by contacting the address above.

Separate notice will be provided of the confirmation and court approval of a settlement of the claims against Ronald McDonald Inc., a corporation that was also alleged to have incurred liability for the diversion of prizes. Information about this settlement and the order of the Court can be obtained from the website above, or by contacting the address above.

This notice has been approved by the Superior Court of Justice for Ontario. Please do not address any questions about this notice, the Settlement or the Order to the Court. Its administrative structure is not designed to answer this type of inquiry. Questions should be addressed in writing, by telephone, fax or email as indicated above.

THE U.S. ECONOMY

As home prices imploded and variable mortgage rates exploded, subprime borrowers couldn't make their payments and whole streets were boarded up, raising the spectre of squatters and urban blight. Investors around the world finally got the message: betting the house on U.S. subdivisions isn't such a good idea. Hedge funds collapsed, billions have been written off—and the cash's nowhere in sight.



★ DISASTERS ★

CHARLES SMITH'S RECORD

The Ontario politician's last mayoralty apparently convinced most parents and relatives of abusing and murdering children—and literally tore already grieving families apart. Turns out that more than 10 of Smith's associates, some dating back to the early '90s, ended up pointing to foul play; a provincial inquiry is

underway, and Smith has and he's "sorry." Recently, the Ontario Council of Appellate judges charged with second degree murder of her child, based on Smith's autopsy, was not him.

BCMP

Last December's resignation of commissioner Giuliano Zaccariello over the Maher Arar affair

led off a year of scandal, starting with issues of civil and human rights. The doubts that fall of two more young Ministers revealed a force so understated that it's unable to protect officers on patrol, while the last flash shooting inquiry in Houston, B.C., and video of the fatal shooting of a Polish immigrant in Vancouver suggested some Ministers' shenanigans and subordination later. More than ever, Canada's national police service appears to be falling to pieces.

BANGALADESH'S CYCLOONE

In a year rife with natural calamities—flames ravaged Greece and California, Mexico was wracked by hurricanes and swamped by flood—impoverished Bangladesh bore the brunt of Mother Nature's wrath when cyclone Sidr swept inland in November. Countless low-lying villages were submerged by flood waters, and the death toll is expected to exceed 10,000.

CAPTIVATING STORIES OR CROWDED STORES



IF YOU'RE THINKING OF MOVING TO...

	BURMA	CHINA	IRAN	IRAQ	N. KOREA	PAKISTAN	RUSSIA	SUDAN	U.S.	VENEZUELA	ZIMBABWE
FLOOD	★	★	★		★	★	★	★	★		★
DROUGHT		★					★		★		★
WILDFIRES	★	★					★		★		
TERRORIST BREKING GROUND	★	★		★		★		★			
TRANS-PAT A POLITICAL ISSUE		★					★		★		
STARKRISH A POLITICAL ISSUE	★				★			★			★
MILITARY IN CONTROL	★				★	★	★	★			
MEGALOMANIAC IN CHIEF			★		★	★	★		★	★	★
NO ONE IN CHARGE				★							
CIVILIANS & CANNON FODDER	★		★			★	★	★			
CIVILIANS & CASH FOR LEADERS	★	★	★		★		★				★
CLAR RECEPTION FOR MTV'S THE WILLS		★		★		★	★		★	★	★
AUTO EMISSIONS A PROBLEM		★	★			★	★		★	★	
SUICIDE BOMBERS A PROBLEM				★		★	★				
COUNTERFEIT PRADA IN THE MARKET		★	★			★	★		★	★	★
CHINA AK-47S IN THE MARKET				★		★	★	★	★	★	
DUBYA'S BOMB-O-METER*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

*Charles Bush will attack

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

GIVE THE GIFT OF MACLEAN'S AT WWW.MACLEANS.CA/GIFTS

MACLEAN'S
MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL



Madonna
Bush

George W. Bush
Lobby

Sandra Bullock

Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II

WEEK, WE'LL PUMP UP THE LOOKS!

The day after the feds vote to go tough on crime, *Seinfeld* can add reports someone already has the homicide rate dropped to par over last year while readers concerned with finances played 16 per cent.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MISSED OUT ON BUSH-X

Not even a year after squandering US\$6 billion and regaining the impluse of American Airlines, Calgary-based trader Brian Hunter set up new investment firm, Soling Capital.

PLINK, WHO'S BEING MACHOR FOR HARDER CRIMINALS LIKE MARTHA STEWART?

President George W. Bush can raise the "executive" sentence for perjury and obstructing justice to 10 years or 100,000 "billion" by the end of 2003. CNA says Valerie Plame.

THAT'S ONE WAY TO ASK FOR A PALACE INVITE

How goes 81-year-old Queen Elizabeth II, best known for quinine and coronation, what gloves and suitable shoes, on its "50 most glamorous" list.

IN THEIR COPS

They had to be in Scotland when the American's Cup for the second time. Who needs an arena to practice in when you have a Swiss bank account?

* HUH? *

AND 'OH MIAMI' HAS MUCH TO TEACH US ABOUT LITERATURE

History Television defends its choice to air CSI: NY on the grounds that the show is historically significant to Canadians.

THE DOG NOT SO LUCKY

The Newbery Medal has been turned down by the author of the book, because the author is a dog, not a person.

TEN MILLION RUTH A HEAD OF A LOT OF PEXIDES

Barris Gold offers \$10 million to anyone who can work out how to extract silver from an Argentine mine. For you're the world's largest gold producer—can't you figure it out?

THAT'S ONE WAY TO GET INSIDE A MURDER

Four years after the collapse of his Liberal leadership dreams, John Manley leaves the wilderness that is being a Newlib Minister director to head Harper's "Winter Afghanistan" fund.

KILLER ACCESSORIES

Just in time for the 10th anniversary of the UK 47 "Hello Kitty" version with "hand-washed" shoulder strap.

SEE, IF PROXIES COMMIT MASS MURDER, IT DOESN'T REALLY COUNT

The International Court of Justice rules that Serbia wasn't directly responsible for genocide in Bosnia.

SET ME AGAIN, YOUR MONITOR

Admitted to video lottery gambling, Nova Scotia Debbie Bush not successfully pleads with the judge, sentencing her for theft and fraud to increase the length of her incarceration to the quick fix for federal prison, which often rehab progress.

MYOONING IDIOTS

If your business isn't an official sponsor of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, watch your language: the feds gave the organizing committee exclusive trademarks for such "Olympic" words as winter, gold and Vancouver.

LOVE LONG AND PROPER

China's 14 athletes want to establish a Communist party branch in space.

SHALOM HITES!

Israeli police broke up a neo-Nazi group, which allegedly carried out anti-Semitic attacks and swore allegiance to Hitler.

THE IRISH DOCTOR WAS OUT

Supporters of Hillary Rodham Clinton asked Clinton to run and it in the Democratic presidential candidate's theme song.

BLOODOT JUDGES

After 30,000 Canadians contracted hepatitis C and more than 1,000 were infected with HIV through tainted blood, no one has been held criminally responsible. In October, a judge who acquitted four doctors said, "To assign blame where none exists is to compound the tragedy."

WHITE-COLLAR CRIME

Former Quebec Premier Jean Charest and three doctors allegedly spent millions on a private jet, a vacation home in British Columbia, and a private jet, after allegedly crashing his vehicle at Glasgow's airport.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Australian Matt Martin crashed and killed a police officer, allegedly colliding with a truck, and promptly registered duplicate Martin married.

ONE CLIX AND A PACE OF PAMPHLET TO GO, PLEASE

When street artist Les Noyes was charged with trying to kidnap her lover's new lady friend, the media thought Christmas had come early: a NASA logo, a triangle, a teddy bear, and an intimate note in a diaper, so she wouldn't have to stop even once.

WE SEE WHAT MOST DON'T

We see the heartbreaking effects of poverty, homelessness, abuse and addiction every day. And most importantly, we see the people who desperately need support and compassion. For us it's impossible to turn a blind eye to suffering. Last year in Canada, The Salvation Army served 1.5 million meals to the hungry, helped 10,000 people with addiction and provided one-third of all shelter beds each night. This Christmas we ask you to open your eyes and your heart. And give.



Giving Hope Today

SalvationArmy.ca • 1 800.SAL.ARMY

★ FINALLY ★

THE AIRBUS A-380 IS CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF

After years of delays, five chief executives, allegations of insider trading, billions in lost profits, and a mission of lost press, Europe's Airbus A-380 made its maiden commercial voyage on Oct. 25, flying from Singapore to Sydney. Too bad disgraced Airbus executives fly the world's largest passenger aircraft back through desert and over their own heads.

A ROCK STAR GETS A PRIDE

In 1974, an aspiring astrophysicist named Brian May took a break from his studies to focus on guitar anthems and leather pants when he formed the rock group Queen. Thirty-three years later, May finally landed in a whopping \$1,000-word doctoral dissertation, titled "Radial Velocities in the Zodiacal Dust Cloud"—almost as long, but not quite as catchy, as Bohemian Rhapsody.

A MADIAN SPEAKER

Mercy Peltas, the long-time Californian congresswoman, became the House's first-ever female speaker in January, after the Democrats took control of Congress. Dependence, Dick Cheney appeared on the verge of his fifth heart attack.

A MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION FOR CANADA

Thanks in part to "Out of the Shadows at Last," his landmark 2004 report on the state of mental health care in Canada, the feds tapped former Liberal senator Michel Kirby to head an arms-length commission aiming to better the lives of those suffering from mental illness. Kirby, who was ostracized from severe mental illness, will oversee the multi-million-dollar commission, head office in Calgary. Thanks to the know-ay he's put the pay to fix a truly crazy system, where good help is hard and hugely expensive to find.

JUSTIN AND SOPHIE PROCEAINE

On what would have been Pierre Trudeau's 88th birthday, Xavier James Trudeau was born to the Liberal candidate for Papineau, Justin Trudeau, and his wife, entertainment reporter Sophie Grégoire. The new Trudeau weighed in at 9 lb, 2 oz.

A CONVICTION FOR A SLASHING

Crashway crater James Ford Seale was indicted on murder charges some 43 years after slaughtering two African-American teens in Mississippi. Long supposed dead—a rumour perpetuated by his own family—Seale was found very much alive near Rome, Miss., by Canadian documentary filmmaker David Ridgen. Convicted in June, Seale was sentenced to three life terms.

THROSCOTT IS AGGRAVATED

Nearly 50 years ago, Steven Throscott, 14, was sentenced to "hang from the neck until you are dead" for the murder of schoolmate Lynette Harper. Though his death sentence was commuted, Throscott spent more than a decade in prison. The fugitive, his conviction was unanimously overturned by the Ontario Court of Appeal, which called it "a miscarriage of justice." Still, he can only be acquitted, not found innocent.

A RHINOCEROS WAR CRIMES TRIAL IN OREGON

Nearly 15 years after the Rwandan genocide, Doris Margensen became the first person to go on trial under Canada's war crimes act. The proceedings are taking place in Montreal—a fellow Canadian spotted Margensen quietly by accident, a meeting that ultimately led to his arrest. A star witness for the prosecution, former Toronto Dolphins, former commander of UN forces in Rwanda.



'THEY CAN'T GIVE A NOBD SOMEONE WHO'S DEAD SO THEY WERE PROBABHINKING BETTER GIVE IT TO ME NOW BEFORE I PCED OFF'—DORIS LESSING

A FORMAL APOLOGY FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

In May, MP Pansel, Unanimously, a motion to apologize to former students of Indian residential schools and the "bad legacy of emotional, physical and sexual abuse." Residential schools—the first opened in 1879 and the last closed in 1996—were meant to assimilate natives but played a huge part in destroying their culture. The federal government has yet to say sorry—writing, it says, for the impact of a truth and reconciliation commission it is still setting up.

THE GENOME OF AN EXTINCTED

Biologist Craig Venter took full disclosure to the mass, publishing six billion letters of his own genetic code. The genome sequence found he has a genetic predisposition to obesity, alcoholism and lactose intolerance, among other ailments.

SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING ABOUT STREET RACING

After dozens of deadly crashes, Ontario lawmakers finally cracked down on street racing. Now, any one caught travelling 50 kphs over the speed limit will auto receive a fine, but his license suspended and/or impounded, and will face fines as high as \$10,000. More than 1,000 people were caught in the first month alone, but the law prompted a car driver from 28-year-old strikes everywhere, now what we supposed to do with all this teenagers?

THIRTY-EIGHT CONVICTED

The sweet talking former life backer with the Saskatchewan Roughriders was sentenced to 5½ years in the pen for aggravated sexual assault. The married CFL star first learned he was infected with HIV in 2005, but lied about his health and continued to have condomless sex with a variety of women, one of whom testified at his trial. Neither test tested positive for HIV.

FOOD ADDITIVES ARE LINKED TO HYPERACTIVITY

A report by the British government's Food Standards Agency confirmed what many parents have long believed (and many doctors have long pooched): there's a link between food additives such as sodium benzoate, found in virtually every soft drink and soda marketed to kids, and hyperactivity in children.

CANADIANS REVEALED AS FOFOGERS

According to one study, Canada was among the most hypocritical nations. Don't tell the kids, but don't smoke like B.C. but do smugly eat softeners because it's

RALPH GOODALE IS EXCORIATED

Fourteen months after the former Liberal finance minister's reputation was dragged through the mud when the RCMP announced an investigation into links of Goodale's income tax non-payment, a civil servant was charged with criminal breach of trust in the affair and the Minister cleared Goodale, asserting his regularly clean rep. Nevertheless, the forces refused to pull attacks linking the Saskatchewan MP to corruption.

RESEARCHERS FIND GENES LINKED TO SCHIZOPHRENIA

An international research team, including scientists from the University of Toronto, discovered a gene that, when defective, is likely to lead to the onset of Alzheimer's disease. Two other studies, meanwhile, isolated the genetic underpinnings of multiple sclerosis.

DORIS LESSING TAKES THE PRIZE

After being short-listed for decades, the British writer won the Nobel for literature, days before turning 88. Lessing known for *The Golden Notebook*, Lessing has also chronicled our short stories, plays and essays, as well as science fiction. Margaret Atwood hailed the decision, while Harold Bloom declared it the ultimate in political correctness.

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NEWSMAKERS

MARKY POTTER

The series finale became one fastest-selling books in history

SODDER HADRA

An Ottawa schoolgirl was a dab hand for weaving a hair in a journey

"KATYTOVILLE"

The critically acclaimed animated film has received the reputation of the net stars of the Toronto skycoaster

BROWNSIDE THE FALCON

Thousands lined a well-known stretch of highway 401 to pay respects each time one of our war dead returned

BARRY SHOOK

Marine Biotech developers' decision to quit is overrated and goes to show an illusion

CHARGE IN CASE

A government inquiry was called over the payments from lobbyist Katherine Schneider to Brian Mulroney

TAKERS

Concern about the 400 guns mounted as bodies piled up

RETIRED SPARKS

History books will show the decline of Western civilization became universal in a hour later in British Columbia

HEAVY CRYSTAL

A former star of the "Hannah Montana" who in real life calls "Army" brother Billy Ray Cyrus "dad"



ZAC EFFRON

It was Zac's Cassidy index gets twisted over the anatomic High School Musical 2 star

GERONIMO PROVOCHER

The 100-year-old warlord vanished in Three Rivers, Calif., and despite a massive search, hasn't been found

ISSUING

Early adoption, crushed Apple's new iPhone toy didn't bring world peace, and buyers who waited got it cheaper

THE SECRET

The book is there, you get what you wish for, the reality only worked for the author who wished to make a movie



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- xDrive
- All-Wheel Drive
- 3 Series
- 5 Series
- X3
- X5



Hockey isn't a sport. It's a commitment.

Puck was going to drop at 9:30 sharp and it was a two-hour drive.

As we headed north, the rain turned into ice. Then snow.

We could have headed back. Some parents did.

Thank you.



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